



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية عربية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Boesak leaves church after scandal

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Anti-apartheid leader Rev. Allan Boesak Wednesday reaffirmed his decision to resign his church posts and seek a political career after a scandal over his relationship with a white journalist. Boesak said he had not changed his mind and would step down as a Protestant minister despite pleas from other religious leaders and friends not to leave the church. Boesak said he wanted to play a role in South African politics. "I have... decided to offer my services to the people of this country to bring about a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa. I am prepared to play any role which I may be called upon to play in this regard," he said in a statement released by his lawyer. Church officials had pleaded with Boesak to reconsider when he announced earlier this month that he was resigning. But he said Wednesday he could not alter his decision to resign as a minister of the Sendingkerk church and as president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, an international council of Protestant churches. The coloured, or mixed-race, leader said he would continue his relationship with television star and producer Eliza Botha. Press revelations about Boesak's relationship with Botha led him to announce he was resigning. Boesak said he and his wife Borothy would divorce. He said he was not ashamed of his relationship with Botha and hoped the press would ignore his private life.

E. German coalition teeters

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's governing coalition teetered on the brink of collapse Wednesday because of jostling for political advantage after the country joins with West Germany. Newspapers accused the politicians of bickering over the precise timing of unification rather than attending to the country's grave economic problems. "We have supply bottlenecks, layoffs in the workplace, the farmers' crisis, but what is happening in the coalition is a fight for political position in the future unified Germany," the labour-oriented daily Tribune said. Another newspaper, Der Morgen, printed citizens' caustic comments on its front-page. One woman said: "It's revolting what's going on. We truly have other worries. This government is only provisional anyway." East Germany will exist only until unification elections due in December for the government of a single Germany expected to be led by current West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and dominated by ministers from the richer, bigger West. The small Liberal Party walked out of the coalition on Tuesday to protest against the insistence of the dominant Christian Democrats (CDU) that the merger should take place after the Dec. 2 elections. The liberals and another coalition partner, the Social Democrats (SPD), want the unity proclamation a day before the poll.

Volume 15 Number 4449 AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 26-27, 1990, MUHARRAM 4-5, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Yemeni housing minister dies

SANAA (R) — Yemen's Minister of Housing and Urban Planning Abdul Qawi Muthana Hadi has died of a brain hemorrhage, the official Gazette said Wednesday. He was 38. The minister died in West Germany Tuesday while undergoing treatment, the Gazette said. Hadi held the same post in former South Yemen before it merged with the North May 22, forming the Yemeni Republic.

Quake jolts Iran's oil-rich province

NICOSIA (R) — A moderate earthquake jolted Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province Wednesday, causing panic in the provincial capital Ahvaz. Tehran Radio said the epicenter of the quake, measuring 5.2 on the open-ended Richter scale, was 500 kilometres south of the Iranian capital. It was not known immediately if there had been any casualties or damage. An earthquake, measuring 7.3, killed about 40,000 people in northwest Iran last month.

Police arrest two after IRA bomb kills four

BELFAST (R) — Police said Wednesday they had arrested two men for questioning about a huge Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb which killed a Catholic nun and three policemen when it blew their cars off a road in Northern Ireland. The IRA, fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, acknowledged it planted the bomb under the road near Armagh Tuesday. Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, said in a statement on Wednesday it regretted the death of 37-year-old Sister Catherine Dunne in the bomb blast. It added that Sinn Fein was committed to creating conditions for peace in Northern Ireland but "this conflict continues because of Britain's refusal to accept the Irish people's right to independence." Police said they arrested the two men at their homes, not far from the scene of the blast when a landmine containing 450 kgs of explosive was set off.

French investigators arrive in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A team of French officials arrived in Lebanon Wednesday to probe an arms smuggling scandal involving French embassy guards in Beirut. The four investigators were whisked away by French embassy security men as they arrived at the airport in west Beirut. French Ambassador Rene Ala was waiting for them. They refused to answer questions about their mission and embassy officials would not disclose their names. Security sources said the delegation would investigate reports that French embassy guards in Beirut had smuggled arms, including automatic weapons, to France. Up to 150 gendarmes, all highly-trained and armed, are based in Beirut at any one time to defend France's three diplomatic premises and French envoys.

Sedki due here Friday

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki is due in Amman Friday on a three-day official visit upon an invitation from Prime Minister Mudar Badran to take part in the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which open Saturday. Sedki will be accompanied by an official delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Minister of Transport Sulaiman Mitwalli, Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza, Minister of Industry Mohammad Abdul Wahhab, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Yusef Mustafa, Minister of Education Fathi Surour, Minister of Labour and Training Assem Abdul Haq and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Ahmad Radwan.

Mubarak: Iraqi, Kuwaiti envoys to meet

'Iraq has no plan to attack Kuwait or any other party'

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Iraq has no plans to attack Kuwait or any other party and Kuwaiti and Iraqi envoys would meet in Saudi Arabia this weekend to discuss the crisis between their countries, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday. Mubarak told reporters the envoys would meet in Jeddah Saturday or Sunday to discuss Iraqi charges that Kuwait was pumping too much oil. The sides have also swapped accusations of border violations.

He said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had "no intention to attack Kuwait or any other party," adding that both countries agreed to stop media attacks on each other as of Thursday. Mubarak also said Iraq had sent no extra troops to its border with Kuwait. "(Iraq) did not put new troops... (it has) no intention to move any troops."

A top aide to Mubarak, Osama Al Baz, said earlier Iraq and Kuwait had signalled the Egyptian president that they wanted to settle their dispute peacefully.

Baz said Mubarak, who returned to Cairo Tuesday night after shuttling between Kuwait, Baghdad and Jeddah, would continue his mediation efforts in the next few days.

He said that during Mubarak's diplomatic foray "elements of progress," had "crystallised."

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Mubarak said Hussein had told him personally Tuesday that he would not attack Kuwait.

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Vision of Maghreb unity is on track

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

ALGIERS — Maghreb states have agreed to a customs union by 1995 but economic imbalances and organisational disputes could slow their march toward a common market.

Five North African leaders, who formed the Arab Maghreb Union last year, set a timetable for the first time at a summit that ended on Monday for realisation of a tariff-free market.

They hope to meet the challenge of the 1992 single market in Western Europe's Economic Community, their main trading partner, by spurring development now crippled by foreign debt and stagnant industries.

But Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Mauritania and Morocco failed to agree on the site for the headquarters of their fledgling union, who to appoint as secretary-general and what his responsibilities should be.

These issues, which a previous summit in January also failed to resolve, could slow the economic integration the Maghreb feels is essential to meet the challenge of the 1990s.

"The customs agreement is historic," said Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali at a post-summit news conference, adding that the outstanding organisational issues would be studied in the months

ahead of the next summit in Tripoli.

Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco are all candidates to host the permanent secretariat and none appears willing to withdraw for the moment.

The summit apparently did not agree on previously announced plans to create a common airline, but endorsed five economic accords on investment, taxes and food security.

These have no immediate practical effect but are to be implemented after careful preparation at the expert and ministerial levels to relieve taxes on trade in agricultural products, encourage inter-Maghreb investment and eliminate double taxation of revenue.

"We should not forget that other economic groupings in the world have not achieved what we have achieved in the same conditions," Moroccan King Hassan said in a speech to the closing session.

The customs agreement, as revealed before the summit closed, sets a first goal of unified tariffs for imported goods by 1991.

North African diplomats say the customs union will need delicate preparation because of economic imbalances between the five states, which link 65 million people and a combined gross national product of more

than \$100 billion annually. Libya, and especially Algeria, have strong heavy and intermediate industries but relatively undeveloped consumer goods sectors compared to Tunisia and Morocco.

While this allows some degree of economic complementarity, it also means Algeria and Libya could be flooded with goods from Morocco and Tunisia if tariffs are lifted, putting their own factories at a disadvantage.

The impact of political differences also remains to be seen, notably the 15-year-old conflict that pits independence-seeking Polisario guerrillas backed by Algeria against Morocco.

King Hassan remained in Algiers on Tuesday, suggesting Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and King Hassan were engaged in bilateral talks.

There are also widely differing approaches on internal politics, with Algeria leaping ahead toward multi-party democracy and its neighbours hesitant to fully legalise the opposition, especially rising Muslim fundamentalist parties.

Other Maghreb states are anxiously watching developments in Algeria where the Fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) swept to victory in local elections last month and is now a major contender for national power.



The Afghan Mujahedeen have been enjoying wide American support in their fight against the Soviet-backed Kabul government, but moves in the U.S. Congress to reduce the level of aid have prompted reactions of anger from them.

Afghan rebels angry at plan to cut U.S. assistance

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Insurgents, whose brutal civil war in Afghanistan has been bankrolled for more than a decade by the United States, expressed anger Wednesday over Washington's plan to cut their funds.

"It will be very bad news for the resistance," said Suleiman Shah, spokesman for the U.S.-backed provisional rebel government.

"It will prompt a hostile reaction from the Mujahedeen (guerrillas)," he added. "Even now many people in the resistance are sceptical of the true dependability of the United States."

On Tuesday, a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee voted to slash aid to the Afghan rebels, claiming Washington had achieved its purpose in Afghanistan when Soviet troops withdrew in February 1989, said Senator Frank Murkowski, a member of the committee.

But Shah said Moscow still funds its Kabul allies to the tune of about \$300 million a month. Washington had been giving the guerrillas between \$300 and \$500 million annually.

A U.S. congressional source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said about \$100 million would be cut from covert aid to Afghan rebels in 1991.

"The Russians, despite economic problems inside the red empire and political upheaval, have done nothing to stop aid to their puppets in Kabul," said Shah.

"It's true that lots of signs of change have taken place inside and outside the Russian empire, but nothing has changed in Afghanistan," he said.

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad refused to comment on the

proposed cuts. Rebel supporters in Washington have signalled they will try to restore the funding before the entire Senate finishes work on the bill, which in 1989 money for covert actions around the world.

Washington and Moscow have been trying to work out a political end to the 12-year war that has reportedly claimed more than a million lives.

An estimated three million Afghans live in squalid refugee camps throughout Pakistan's rugged border provinces. Two million live in Iran.

Most fled their homeland after 1979 when the Soviet Union sent about 115,000 soldiers into Afghanistan to help crush a burgeoning insurgency and install a friendly communist government in Kabul.

A United Nations-brokered accord provided for the Soviet troop withdrawal. The U.S. has been trying to initiate a political settlement between the two superpowers and the factions they support.

The stumbling block among the rebels has been Afghan President Najibullah's role in a post-war Afghanistan. Washington has agreed Najibullah could remain as president during elections, but only if he gives up control of the military, media and state-run secret police.

Earlier this month Najibullah seemed ready to go along with the plan, but Western diplomats feared he was not prepared to turn power over to a neutral body. There has been no reported progress on who would assume control of the key ministries during an election.

A Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

"we're just waiting for the Soviets to return with a reply. We've gone as far as we can go and still get the Mujahedeen to sign on."

The U.S. had previously refused to accept even Najibullah's presence in Kabul before or after elections.

But Washington revised its bargaining after guerrilla fighters, who were expected to overthrow Kabul shortly after the Soviet troop withdrawal, were fought to a stalemate on the battlefield and defeated in successive political battles.

"The United States doesn't care about the people of Afghanistan... it was just looking for its own benefit in Afghanistan," said Abdul Haidi, a spokesman for the vociferously anti-Western Hezb-e-Islami rebel group, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar's party has been linked to the narcotics trade, which some senators cited as part of the rationale for reducing assistance.

The bearded leader has repeatedly denied the charges.

"More Afghans return"

The trickle of Afghan refugees returning home has increased this year, according to United Nations figures released Tuesday.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said 1,200 refugees were returning home daily from Pakistan to Afghanistan and it was beginning a project which it hoped would repatriate 250,000 over the next three months.

Pakistani officials had said the organised voluntary repatriation would begin Wednesday from refugee villages in Baluchistan.

All last year only 150,000 returned home.

Assad, Saadeh hold rare talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad met with Lebanese Maronite Christian politician George Saadeh Wednesday in the first such contact at this level in four years, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

Saadeh heads the rightist Al-Baath party and is minister of posts and telecommunications in the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi.

SANA said the talks were about efforts to implement the Taif agreement, which seeks to end Lebanon's civil war by giving more political power to Muslims. The agreement is named after the Saudi Arabian resort town where the pact was thrashed out by Lebanon's parliament last autumn.

Syria has sided with leftist groups in the civil war, and has not held contacts at this level with

Maronite leaders in four years. "The purpose is to reconnect what has been disconnected," Saadeh said in Damascus.

SANA said that Assad "reiterated Syria's support for the implementation of the (Taif) agreement, and that it supports all the Lebanese in their endeavour to achieve national unity."

Syria has 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

"We came here to find a solution to save Lebanon... no solution could succeed without Syrian help. There could be no solution without Syria," Saadeh, allied to the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, told reporters on arrival.

The visit is the first to Damascus in five years by a Falange or LF leader. The two groups have long opposed Syrian involvement in Lebanon but there have recent

signs of a softening in their position.

Saadeh, initially reluctant to join Hrawi's cabinet, was among the Lebanese members of parliament who approved the Taif pact, which has also been accepted by the LF but is rejected by General Michel Aoun.

Kaufman reassured

British Shadow Foreign Secretary Gerald Kaufman left for home Wednesday with assurances from Syria that it was trying to win the release of the 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, three of them Britons.

The Labour Party foreign affairs spokesman, who had talks with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharara, described his visit as "fruitful and constructive."

Iran seeks compensation from U.S. in Airbus downing

THE HAGUE (AP) — Iran has asked the World Court for punitive damages and compensation from the U.S. government for the 1988 downing of an Iranian commercial jetliner by a U.S. navy missile.

All 290 passengers and crew aboard the jetliner perished in the attack, which the U.S. said was a mistake. The navy ship that fired the missile had been patrolling the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war. The boat's commanders said they had thought the approaching jetliner, visible on radar screens, was a warplane.

In its first written arguments, Iran also asked the court to order the United States to refrain from violations of international law, and rebuked the U.S. government for its continued naval presence in the Gulf.

In its 300-page brief, accompanied by three volumes of exhibits, Iran sought compensation for

families of the victims of the Airbus downing, as well as for the Iranian government and the airline, Iran Air.

It also sought punitive damages for what it called "the criminal nature of the act."

The brief, termed a memorial in World Court parlance, did not appear to specify any monetary figures.

Iran demanded a "reparations declaration," but did not specify in the memorial's introduction what that declaration would involve.

Elements of the introduction were obtained by the Associated Press.

The Airbus had been on a flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubai when it was downed on July 3, 1988, by a missile fired from the USS Vincennes.

Later investigations disclosed that the airliner was in a normal climbing pattern when it was

downed.

Iran filed the case in May 1989, and the administration of U.S. President George Bush said it would take part in the proceedings. The U.S. government has until March 4 to file its corresponding memorial.

The court, the judicial arm of the United Nations, has no enforcement powers and depends on the voluntary adherence of states coming before it.

The purpose of Iran's memorial is two-fold — to prove that the court, formally known as the International Court of Justice, has jurisdiction over the case and to state the facts of its claim.

The memorial charged that the United States had refused to accept responsibility for the Airbus downing and continues to provoke Iran by the presence of its naval fleet in the Gulf.

The United States has begun to pay compensation to the families

of non-Iranian victims, but has refused to meet the compensation conditions set by Iran for Iranian victims.

The Iranian memorial also seeks the reversal of a November 1988 refusal by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation to issue a condemnation of the United States for the attack.

Iran claimed that by downing the Airbus, the United States violated the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation as well as an anti-terrorism pact, the 1977 Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation.

The Montreal convention provides for adjudication of such claims by the court, while the earlier convention refers such claims to the League of Nations.

Iran also claimed in its brief

that the United States had violated Iranian sovereignty as well as U.N. charter provisions barring the use of force and assuring freedom of navigation.

Apart from the Iranian victims, the plane also was carrying passengers of Indian, Italian, Kuwaiti, Pakistani, Yugoslav and United Arab Emirates nationality.

Eight days after the downing, then-President Ronald Reagan announced an offer of compensation to the victims' families.

The compensation process for non-Iranian victims began in the summer of 1989, with the U.S. government paying \$250,000 to the families of wage-earners, and \$100,000 to the families of other victims.

Iran had demanded that it be compensated directly for the downing, and refused to provide a list of eligible next of kin.

The Iranian memorial demanded compensation for the value of life lost, loss to the victims' estates, mental suffering of the survivors, the value of the plane, the value to the airline of the crew's experience, and the cost to the Iranian government of search and rescue operations.

The World Court case is likely to be handled by the U.S. and Iranian officials representing their governments at the Iran-United States claims tribunal here.

The tribunal is charged with arbitrating billions of dollars in financial claims between the two nations arising out of the 1979 Iranian revolution.

The tribunal is the only official forum for U.S.-Iranian governmental contacts since their break in diplomatic relations after the 1979 hostage-taking at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to issue verdict on Briton soon

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of Iran's judiciary said the supreme court will soon announce its verdict in the case of Briton Roger Cooper, accused of spying, the newspaper Kayhan Havi reported Tuesday. The official, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, said that the verdict would be carried out immediately after it is announced, the English-language daily reported. He did not elaborate, beyond saying the verdict would be announced in the near future. Iranian officials have said that Cooper was convicted in February 1989 of spying for Britain and sentenced, but they have not disclosed the sentence. Yazdi used the word verdict, not sentence. In a meeting with Cooper's sister in Tehran last year Yazdi denied reports that the British national had been sentenced to death by an Iranian court. The 53-year-old British businessman has been held since Dec. 7, 1985. He lived in Iran for 20 years before his arrest. Iran and Britain severed ties after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on Muslims worldwide to kill British author Salman Rushdie in February last year for blaspheming Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Islamic spokesman detained in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — The spokesman of Tunisia's Islamic opposition movement was detained Tuesday evening, his associates said Wednesday. Police took Ali Laridh, spokesman and leading member of the unrecognized Nahdha (renaissance) movement, from outside his house at 7.30 p.m. and he has not been seen since, they said. Interior Ministry officials were not available for comment Wednesday. Laridh made a public holiday, a "serious impasse" because of the government's policy of excluding the Nahdha from politics. "In short, the country is moving backwards, it is in deep crisis and the paternalistic and selective approach adopted by the government and the ruling party limit the scope for breaking out of the crisis," he said. The Tunisian authorities regularly question the leaders of unrecognised opposition groups, sometimes for several days, when they make statements critical of government policy.

Algeria frees police school attackers

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria freed 15 Muslim fundamentalists Tuesday, survivors of the Bouali gang who attacked a police school in 1985 to steal arms and ammunition. Algiers radio said Wednesday. Gang leader Mustafa Bonali and three of his followers were shot dead by security forces in an ambush in 1987 after 18 months on the run. Three of those released, including two brothers, had been sentenced to death by the state security court, which was abolished last year as part of Algeria's liberalisation. The others were serving long sentences for armed rebellion, killing policemen and stealing weapons. The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which won local elections in June, has been campaigning for their release.

Israel tests unmanned helicopter

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's aircraft industry said Tuesday it had tested the world's first unmanned helicopter. It said the navy could use the aircraft, named the Hellstar, to locate ships at sea. Each would cost \$4 million compared with the \$30 million Israel pays France for similar manned helicopters. Israel Aircraft Industries said the first successful trial of the helicopter was June 18. It has been airborne several times since then for longer periods, a company spokesman said. He would not give the duration of the flights. The helicopter, built at the request of the Israeli navy, weighs 1,100 kilos and can carry a load of 450 pounds (200 kilos). Israeli navy commanders said the helicopters would be placed on missile boats to replace French-made helicopters used to find and identify ships at sea.

Qatar, Soviet Union initial agreement

NICOSIA (R) — Qatar and the Soviet Union initialled a draft agreement on economic, commercial and technical cooperation Tuesday, the Qatari News Agency (QNA) reported. A Soviet economic delegation arrived in Qatar Saturday to discuss trade and cooperation, including the possible export of natural gas from Qatar to the Soviet Union. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1988.

Israeli belly dancers protest

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli belly dancers have made a rare appearance in parliament to protest against religious authorities who are trying to restrict their shows. The dancers complained that local authorities known as the rabbinate deprive them of work by pressuring owners of wedding halls and hotels to bar their performances. They presented their case to the interior committee after it had discussed legislation sponsored by ultra-religious members to ban pork and close down sex shops in the Jewish state. The anti-pig law has been proposed because pork is forbidden under Jewish law as an unclean animal. "The rabbinate is preventing us from making a living," Leah Gavish, head of the belly dancers' union, told Israel Television during the session. One dancer won a supreme court case by showing that the rabbinate had threatened to take away a vital kosher certification from hotels and halls if they allowed belly dancing. Without the certificate, religious Jews would not hold parties at the halls. "It is a disaster that heaven forbid we think that they should stop belly dancing at hotels that are kosher," said Menachem Porush, a committee member from the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel party.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:30 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:50 Mollerissim
18:10 Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30 La Chance aux chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sirocco
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Difficult world
21:10 Dolphin Cove
22:00 News in English
22:20 Movie of the week

PRAYER TIMES

04:42 Sunrise
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:42 Maghreb
21:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 633785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 827981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 17 / 30
Aqaba 24 / 31
Desert 19 / 36
Jordan Valley 22 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr 775050

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mashas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 638945
University Hospital 669131
Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafieh 775111/26
Arzy, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 62240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)883223

Dr. Issam Hawamdeh 624830
Dr. Dawud Samhour 689535
Dr. Ahmad Al Daqa 676473
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asas pharmacy 637055
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mahmoud Sa'ed (—)
Al Shara'a pharmacy (985)328

ZARQA:
Dr. Musa Odeh (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue Emergency 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 66727/9
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 696390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 626800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints Amman Municipality 787111

HOSPITALS

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Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal

Petra Bank employees rally, demand their rights secured

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Organisers of a rally to express solidarity with Petra Bank employees Tuesday night called on the government to open all corruption files dealing with the bank before Jordanian citizens, and asked that all the bank's employees be placed in similar jobs in other financial institutions.

"Until today, and despite the democratisation process in Jordan, we have not yet heard a single name — officially or unofficially — of those involved in the collapse of Petra Bank. We have not heard of what Ahmad Chalabi and his group have done, or of all those involved in the corruption case with him from government ministries and departments and the private sector," Haidar Rashid, president of the Banks and Insurance Employees Association (BIEA), said.

At a rally held at the Professional Associations Complex Rashid called on all employees and workers in financial institutions to stand by the Petra Bank employees in their "struggle to achieve their rights" by putting pressure on the government to ensure that the employees will receive their rights. He also called on all the "progressive parties and deputies to stand by this

cause."

Petra Bank is under liquidation ordered this week by the Economic Security Committee (ESC). All accounts of the bank have been ordered transferred to the Housing Bank, leaving the employees uncertain about their future employment. The Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi, said at the time that the rights of the employees — around 680 people — were guaranteed.

"We know very well that the CBJ governor cannot force financial institutions to employ the Petra Bank workers, and your (employees) rights cannot be protected by the government. Therefore, we are making your cause into a national one," Rashid told Tuesday's gathering of 400 employees and others who attended the rally to express solidarity with them.

He announced that a "national committee for Petra Bank employees" was open to all those who want to participate in pressuring the government into ensuring the employees' rights.

The low turn-out at the rally was criticised by Rashid. "Those colleagues who did not attend today's meeting think their problem will be solved through the government because of the official statements that have been made. But the government has not yet made

any clear statement as to what will happen to them," Rashid said.

Banners and posters were hung on the walls of the main hall at the association complex reading: "Let the government bear responsibility for the collapse of the financial sectors," "They stole our money and the strength of our children while they sleep peacefully in their extravagant homes," and "let this rally be a launching point for the struggle against corruption."

The hall was bustling with talk and the participants seemed disinterested in what was being said during the rally. There was an atmosphere of scepticism and pessimism during the speeches, but the participants' enthusiasm picked up after Rashid announced that their recommendations would be cable to concerned officials, including His Majesty King Hussein.

Speaking at the rally, Mazen Saket, personnel officer at Petra Bank, said that the demands of the employees were known: "to get what they deserve."

"The employees demand that they be placed in similar jobs with the same conditions in other financial institutions, transferring their financial obligations to their new jobs, compensating those who want to be compensated until they find other jobs, making public the developments and mea-

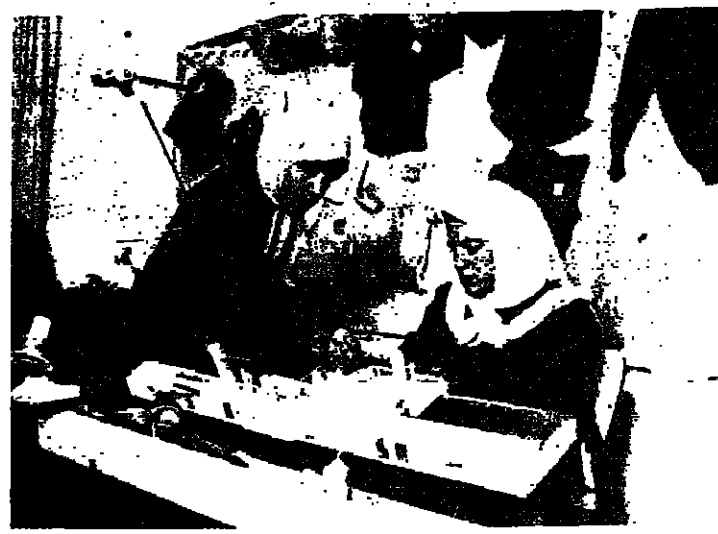
sures taken to ensure that the employees will be placed in other institutions. They also demand that these demands be executed by the association and concerned parties," Saket said.

Also speaking at the rally were Amman Deputy Mansour Murad, Jordanian Pharmacists Association President Tayseer Humsi and newspaper columnist Mohammad Daudia. They all expressed solidarity with the employees' "struggle to fight" for their rights.

Rashid also announced that there were messages of solidarity from different deputies from the Democratic Bloc in Parliament, some political parties, employees from different financial institutions and professional and labour unions.

Recommendations from the rally called on all banking and financial institutions to bear some responsibility to work towards overcoming the economic problems facing the country and called on the government to "disengage from the grips of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank."

The BIEA decided to send the recommendations of the rally to His Majesty King Hussein, the prime minister, the CBJ governor, the speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, the minister of labour and the General Federation of Labour Unions.



Vocational training is one of the focuses of projects implemented by Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (Jordan Times file photo).

Voluntary centre opens in Karak

KARAK (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday opened a social voluntary services centre in Karak to render voluntary services to the local population.

Established on a plot of land offered by Karak Municipality, the centre comprises a kindergarten, accommodating 120 children, a vocational training unit, offering training to young women in typing, dress making, knitting and tricot work and a multipurpose hall.

The project, the 24th centre operated by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), was financed through contributions from the Industrial Development Bank, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and Karak Municipality.

Princess Basma, who is chairperson of QAF's Board of Trustees, toured the various sections and, in a speech later, thanked those who contributed to the project.

"Social work is no more a traditional work, but rather an important and responsible mission especially in promoting the standard of children and women in the rural regions of Jordan," the Princess said at the ceremony.

The project was carried out in cooperation between QAF and the Muab charitable society in Karak.

Following the opening ceremony, the Princess opened an exhibition of handicrafts organised at the Karak ancient castle in the presence of a number of parliament deputies from the Karak Governorate and other officials.

Seven ambassadors present credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Seven newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan Wednesday presented their credentials to His Majesty King Hussein at separate ceremonies held at Raghadan Palace.

The ambassadors were Nelson Haddad Hreizi of Chile, Dodo Diyoub of Senegal, Abu Baker Ghorbeh Abdullah of Nigeria, John Conarten of Sri Lanka, Abdo Mousa of Niger, Chiang Hiding of Singapore and Zimen Cassigen of Ethiopia.

The presentation ceremonies were attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Upon his arrival at the Raghadan Palace, King Hussein was

greeted by a guard of honour and the band played the Jordanian national anthem as well as the national anthems of the countries of the new ambassadors to Jordan.

In another development, His Majesty King Hussein has bestowed on the Bulgarian Ambassador to Jordan Yanko Demirev Al Istikal Medal of the First Order in appreciation of his efforts to bolster Jordanian-Bulgarian relations.

The medal was bestowed on Demirev upon the termination of his tour of duty in the Kingdom.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem presented the medal to the outgoing ambassador at a lunch he held in his honour attended by several ambassadors to Jordan.

Oil exploration to start in Ajloun

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA), responsible for oil and natural gas exploration in the Kingdom, will soon start drilling in the Ajloun region to prospect for oil, NRA Director-General Kamal Jreissat announced Wednesday.

He said that the drilling will be done upon recommendations from NRA teams of geologists who provided information indicating signs of the oil presence in the region.

"Once the drilling has been done, the NRA will work out a detailed programme for studying the higher regions of Jordan with the purpose of determining the possibility of oil and gas finds," Jreissat said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

This is the first time that NRA announces drilling in the Ajloun district in northern Jordan, as all previous drillings took place in the Azraq and Rishah districts in north eastern Jordan.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taber last April revealed that the Kingdom produces up to 400 barrels of crude oil and around 22 million cubic feet of natural gas on a daily basis from the oil and gas fields in

north eastern Jordan. "NRA is spearheading efforts in the search for oil in the Kingdom in cooperation with foreign oil firms operating in the Kingdom," the minister said.

One of the foreign firms is the Petro-Canada International Assistance Corporation which last February signed an agreement with the Jordanian government to expand its current oil and gas exploration in the Kingdom and raised to \$37 million its contributions to NRA's efforts.

Jreissat told the Jordan Times that the drilling, south east of Anjara in the Ajloun area, is expected to cost JD 2 million and will be carried out by NRA teams of technicians.

He said that Jordan extracts natural gas from Al Rishah where turbines will soon be installed to produce electricity.

The 400 barrels of oil per day, he said, are extracted at the Azraq fields also in the north east of Amman.

According to Taber, the gas produced at Rishah will help produce at least 15 per cent of the total energy and electricity in the kingdom.

Brucellosis cases show dramatic increase

By Aida Tawil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — There has been a sharp increase in the number of brucellosis cases this year in Jordan largely due to shortcomings in prevention and government failure to tackle the problem seriously, according to a study released by Dr. Mustafa Shennak, head of internal medicine department at the Al Bashir Hospital in Amman.

The study reveals that 490 cases of brucellosis are now being treated at the hospital. "We receive seven to 10 brucellosis cases a week, up from one case a week or even a month in the past three years," according to Dr. Shennak who expressed fear that the disease is becoming epidemic.

"Nearly 50 per cent of the patients are teenagers, ranging in age from 11 to 20," he added.

"Initiatives like state funding and private contributions to help deal with the disease have to be made to stop the danger, since prevention and cure of the disease are costly and causing a long-term burden on Jordan," said Shennak. Dr. Shennak urges a campaign of awareness among people

and advises boiling and/or heating milk and milk products for at least 10 minutes before consumption in order to avoid becoming contaminated with brucella. He advised against consuming raw meat and liver.

Dr. Atef Hamarneh, an internist at the Zarqa Government Hospital, points out certain trends in health policy in Jordan and says he and his colleagues have been treating an average of 30-40 brucellosis cases a week.

"Particular care should be given to the livestock wealth in Jordan, and the Ministry of Agriculture, especially the veterinary section, should undertake this important task," Hamarneh said.

"The concerned health authorities in Zarqa, including the veterinary branch, should cooperate with the private dairy processing plants to promote hygiene measures in Zarqa," added Hamarneh.

"There is no point in issuing regulations if nobody abides by them," he concluded.

Brucellosis, which is an infectious chronic disease, affects animals and human beings. Brucella is the bacteria that causes the disease. It was discovered in 1886 by Sir David Bruce.

The bacteria attack the livestock, mainly cows and sheep; human beings may contract the infection from eating products from the sick animals.

Doctors say that the disease could enter the body through abraded skin, the inner layer of the external eye and lids and through the respiratory mucosa, but the most known way is through the ingestion of contaminated food, according to Dr. Shennak.

"The contaminated substances reach the body through the gastro-intestinal tract mucosa," Shennak said. He added that the infection happens insidiously.

"The symptoms are rise in temperature, malaise and fatigue, and continuous headaches," he said.

Dr. Shennak said that statistics over the past three years at Al Bashir Hospital showed that brucellosis cases were as follows:

No. of patients	Medium
82	milk
256	cheese
109	yoghurt
7	ice cream
3	direct contact with animals
33	unknown

Dr. Shennak said that patients were mostly from rural areas of Jordan and the male-female ratio of cases was one to two.

According to Shennak, this survey covered an estimated 20 per cent of the total number of patients in Jordan.

In the United Kingdom, Shennak said, the authorities discovered that one third of the country's cattle was affected by brucella. "Despite its high technology and advanced development, it took Britain 17 years of hard efforts to discover the serious effects of brucellosis and eradication cost them 360,000 heads of farm animals, worth £200 million."

Shennak believes that the high percentage of the disease among women is largely due to their direct contact with animals. He said that treatment lasts for six weeks and is very costly.

Specialists at Al Bashir Hospital urge the government to take proper measures to deal with the situation and make use of the media and other forms of communication to spread awareness among the members of the public and save animal and human life.

Irbid Municipality to modernise the city

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Municipality has comprehensive plan to make the city of Irbid a modern one with distinguished services. Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat said Wednesday.

Tubeishat said in a press conference that the citizens of the city have a major role in bringing the plans of the municipality to success by paying their financial commitments.

Tubeishat reviewed steps taken by the municipality to present service such as drawing a new organisational structure, describing the duties of the municipality's employees as well as holding technical and administrative training courses for them.

The municipality, he said, will draw a comprehensive plan for organising and solving the problems of traffic in cooperation with Amman Municipality and the

Public Security Department (PSD). The plan is based on finding a centre for the city to reduce traffic jams, assigning service taxis stations away from the centre of the city and allowing only pedestrians to enter the Martyr Wafsi Al Tal Street.

Tubeishat said that Irbid Municipality was one of the municipalities in the Kingdom most interested in cleanliness and public safety; he added that the next days would witness improvement in this field.

He said the municipality had built 15 gardens, a library and a children club.

The municipality, said Tubeishat, has finished the first stage of the Irbid Municipality building project which includes a parking lot, a market, 12 offices, a building for the municipality's building and a lectures and meetings hall.

Italian experts come to Jordan to restore Madaba mosaic

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sergio Pezzi and Antonino Vaccalluzzo arrived in Jordan last week in order to restore the mosaic of the Apostle's Church in Madaba.

The two Italian experts are two restorers of the Directorate of Ravenna of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Properties and have been sent to Jordan by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs upon a request by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

The mission of the two restorers, the materials they will use as well as the air transportation from Rome to Amman is a grant of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Jordanian government, according to the Italian embassy in Amman.

The restoration of the mosaic of Apostle's Church in Madaba is the first stage of a project under study which aims at establishing a mosaic school in Madaba with the technical assistance of the Italian government, the embassy said in a statement to the Jordan Times.

Police nab peddler of counterfeit dollars

AMMAN (J.T.) — A non-Jordanian Arab was arrested by the police in downtown Amman Wednesday while trying to peddle counterfeit U.S. dollars, according to an announcement by the Public Security Department (PSD).

It said that the man, whose

identity was not revealed, was found trying to sell a sum of 800 counterfeit U.S. dollars at one of the capital's central cafes. The police were informed about the man and they immediately moved into detain him, said the announcement. No further details were available.

Last August the police announced the seizure of 144,000 counterfeit U.S. dollars from smugglers coming from Syria and reported the arrest of several other people trying to peddle counterfeit dollars in Amman.

In the following month the police announced the seizure of 13,800 counterfeit dollars and the arrest of nine persons, including five Jordanians.

In another development, the PSD announced Wednesday that 20 rolls of copper cables laid by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) for telephone communications purposes have been stolen at an area near the border town of Ramtha in northern Jordan.

The PSD said that altogether a 100-metre long cable was lost in the theft as was reported by the TCC. The robbers had used a sharp knife to cut off the cable according to the TCC, the announcement added, but gave no other details.

Last May police arrested a group of people who had stolen telephone cables worth more than JD 6,000. The theft had caused damage to and disruption of telephone services in the Mafraq Governorate north east of Amman.

Minister reviews Tafileh water situation

TAFILEH (J.T.) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf Wednesday visited the Tafileh Governorate, in southern Jordan, to inspect the water situation there and discuss water problems with local officials.

"The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is now planning to conduct a field study in the Tafileh region to ensure sufficient amounts of water, especially in the summer season, to avoid any water shortages," Khalaf said at a meeting with the Tafileh governor and other officials.

He said that the Zibdeh artesian well, which pumps 80 cubic metres of water per hour, will be reactivated to meet the needs of the population.

The Water Authority of Jordan, he added, will soon start replacing the old water networks to ensure no water losses and waste.

CONDOLENCES

LAURIE KAFENA

Sadly announces the passing away of her beloved husband

ABDALLA ISSA KAFENA

Funeral arrangements will be announced upon the family's arrival from abroad.

WHAT'S GOING ON


The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Rudaina and Ruba Haddad at the Housing Bank Complex hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by ten Iraqi artists at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery — tel. No. 699914.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting Arabian and other horses by Henri Busy at the Philadelphia Hotel.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concerts by the Jordan Armed Forces Band (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.), a local folk troupe (7:00 - 8:00) an Indian folk troupe (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.) at the Forum.
- ★ Play for children entitled "Cinderella" at Artemis Steps — 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Arabic play entitled "Cairo 80" at the South Theatre — 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Concert by the Warsaw Accordion Quintet at Artemis Steps — 9:30 p.m.



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جريدة الأردن السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Debate for all

THE LOWER House of Parliament last night began a debate on Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine. The debate is of great significance to Jordan since the short-term and long-term implications of such a swelling of the Jewish state's population have yet to be fully explored.

In only a few cases in history have the people of a country been uprooted and squeezed out of their country like the Palestinians. And rarely, if at all, has a small country like Palestine been "promised" to millions of people other than its original inhabitants to settle it. The implications on the region, its demography and its resources of millions of Soviet and other Jews moving into Palestine must be far-reaching. The Western talk of human rights ignores these implications, especially their impact on the human rights of all the peoples of the region, Arabs and Jews.

The basic notion that Palestine is the homeland of the Jews of the world must be an absurd one. Palestine cannot accommodate all the Jews of Europe, America and even Ethiopia. And squeezing millions of them in this tiny country is only a prescription for future misery and bloodshed. If Jews cannot be guaranteed their human rights in the countries they live in as nationals and citizens they must not expect to be guaranteed those rights on usurped Arab lands at our expense.

The Palestinian Arabs, who inhabited Palestine for at least 2,000 years and were only forced to leave it some 40 years ago, certainly have a right to return and live there—a right that supercedes the right of the Jews who left it hundreds of years ago. This is the most basic and simple argument about Palestine and people's right to it. It will not be long before the whole world will come to realise this. The Arabs are not racist. But it is fair to say, we think, that Jewish influence and manipulation has blinded many, especially in the U.S., to the legitimate cause of the Palestinians in favour of the Israel wrong.

There is a great danger, to both Arabs and Jews, in Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine. And unless the region moves quickly towards peace based on equality and the fulfilment of Palestinian rights, we will witness untold strife and catastrophes. Jordan is at the forefront of all of this and the deputies of the people must use the occasion in their next session for real soul-searching and objective analysis of the situation. It is time to see the danger, to chart the path most suitable to confront it and to go about in a manner that will be beneficial to this country and all its people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The United States believes that it has a free hand in the Arab World and can send in its fleets to threaten Arab countries any time it liked, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday. The paper said that Washington seems to have failed to learn lessons from the past and continues to believe that any part of the world is rightfully a property of the American forces and can do whatever it likely with other peoples of the world. By this irresponsible action and ignorance of the facts, the United States is thus opening the door for regional conflicts and fuelling disputes among neighbouring states, the paper continued. It said that the United States has never been so hostile to the Arabs and intent on launching aggression on them as it is now although American leaders realise that their forces have never achieved any victory by fighting people defending their existence. The United States is busy with its conspiracies against Arab regimes, trying to set one against another, not realising that the Arabs are united and that the current row over oil is a passing phase in inter-Arab relations, said the paper. The American Defence Department's moves vis-a-vis the current situation in the Gulf is an attempt on the part of Washington to tamper with the Arab world's security; and its actions serve as a defiance of the Arab Nation and its will and or Arab pride, the paper added. The Arabs, the paper said, should make Washington realise that they have now matured to become a new Vietnam and a new Beirut, resisting all forms of aggression from any source.

Al Dustour daily paid tribute to the European Community for its endeavours to help the Palestinian people and settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. The European Community nations, the paper said, have expressed anew their balanced stand vis-a-vis the Middle East question, and have been exercising a very positive role by exposing to the world Israel's intransigence. The European Community's declarations in Venice and Dublin remind the world that the Europeans can and will play a positive role to bring about a just and lasting peace at a time when the United States' role is receding and when the Europeans realise too well the futility of Washington's policies in the region, said the paper. We are impressed with the positive European stand which is becoming more and more constructive and positive every day, at a time when the United States is becoming more and more biased towards Israel, supporting its atrocities and its programme for absorbing Soviet Jewish immigrants in occupied Palestine, the paper added. The European Community countries, it said, have now set a good and constructive example for other nations in international relations.

Sawt Al Shaab daily attacked the United States for trying to fish in muddy waters and for causing trouble in the Gulf region. The United States and other Western circles are trying to escalate tension in the Gulf and fuelling the situation along the Iraqi-Kuwait borders for their own self-interests, said the paper. This is being done as the United States masses its fleets in the Gulf in a bid to internationalise the dispute between the two Arab states and to allow foreign countries to interfere in Arab issues, the paper continued. President Saddam Hussein had warned that the United States is trying to increase its naval presence in the Gulf, following the end of cold war, in a bid to consolidate its hold over the Arab states there, the paper noted. It said that the Arabs are now called on to take constructive steps leading to an end of the dispute, and are urged to heal the rift between Kuwait and Iraq to prevent any foreign intervention which could be detrimental to Arab interests.

A U.S.-Soviet answer for the Middle East?

To the Editor:

I was recently in your country, together with some 50 other Americans, on a "Mission for a Just Settlement in the Middle East." We were received for two hours, each, by His Majesty King Hussein and by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. We found both of them to be highly personable men and reasonable diplomats, and to be very forgiving in view of all that they and your countrymen have had to live through during the past 40-odd years. (We had interviews also with leaders of Syria and Egypt and Israel and the occupied territories, and we talked everywhere with many ordinary citizens as well.)

To remind you, enclosed are copies of two articles from your newspaper—one by the Crown Prince and the other an account of the King's meeting with our delegation.

You will see how much our group's ideas coincided with many of the ideas of your leaders.

The article enclosed which I have just written, is being sent to several American newspapers. On re-reading the Crown Prince's article, after writing this, I realised that many of the fears he expressed had become our fears too. You will notice some of the points of correlation:

The fear of fundamentalism. And the fear of a major war that might involve the entire Middle East—a war that might well drag in the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. and Europe as well. We also shared Prince Hassan's concern and sadness that U.S. diplomacy—for, from the beginning, the U.S. has played an overwhelming

diplomatic role in the Middle East—has not been very effective in advancing the cause of peace.

There is one major point in what I have written that differs, however, from the Prince's article. That is the question of United Nations' involvement with the "international conference" that Jordan and other Arab states have so long called for...

For many years, as Arab states have been repeatedly proposing an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations, Israel has steadfastly resisted. Israelis have, in fact, simply refused such a conference. And they seem to have little or no intention of ever changing their position.

That is why my article proposes a different kind of international conference. When you read it, you will see what the proposal is. My questions to you now, and to the leaders of Jordan, are these:

Would Jordan agree to the kind of international conference this article proposes? Do you believe your leaders would? And the leaders of Syria and Egypt and (possibly) Iraq and other Arab states that consider themselves frontline parts of this international problem? Would you, and they, be willing to hold an international conference among the immediate contestants to the Palestine problem? A conference apart from the UN? And would you, and they, be willing to consider the kind of U.S.-Soviet guarantee for the (hoped-for) positive results of such a conference as is suggested in the article?

Finally, would you publish this letter and this suggestion? It comes from an ordinary American, one with a few very close

personal friends on both sides. An ordinary American whose only claim to speak is the claim of free speech and democracy, and the fact that I have worried about your people, about Israel's people, and all the people of the Middle East. I worry, too, about our American people and the people of the Soviet Union and of Europe, who could also be swept up into the kind of disastrous Middle Eastern war that might ensue if all of us continue to fail to find a formula for settling Arab-Israeli differences. I have worried about that ever since I covered the Arab-Israeli-British war of 1947-48 as an American correspondent. (I was also in Amman, as I mentioned a few weeks ago to King Hussein when I met him, on the day he was crowned in—I believe—1953.)

After all, leaders of the Arab states have proclaimed their desire for a UN-sponsored conference for years, if not decades. And Israel, for just as long, has refused. The idea seems to be a dead letter.

Is there not a way around this impasse? Is the way suggested in this article one that might offer a new departure? A new way for Arab leaders and Israeli leaders to break the log-jam that threatens to result in a devastating war?

Thank you for your consideration of this idea, and for offering it to your readers.

David S. Boyer
9406 Locust Hill Rd.
Bethesda, Md. USA 20814

THE U.S. of 1990 is preoccupied with home-made problems and self-inflicted wounds. Some of them are serious (a deficit economy and government, a second-rate educational and social system, a defence establishment now redundant without a viable enemy, etc.). Others are trivial (a few flag burners and defenders, a few dirty-music vocalists, a few Donald Trumps, a few senators in trouble, a multi-million-dollar D.C. mayor on drug charges, etc.).

The USSR of 1990 is preoccupied, too—half-buried under economic collapse, the crumbling of communism, and the disintegration of an empire. Europe is also preoccupied, simply because it's on a roll—so captivated by visions of itself as a fairy-tale new economic and democratic superpower that it doesn't have time for much of anything but its own image in tomorrow's mirror.

Where does that leave the Middle East? Comparatively last or ignored on the world's radar scope.

And that spells danger. If there is a place the world should be worried about today, it's the Middle East. After an unending half-century-long encyclopedia of conflict, authored by selfishness and hatred and terror and punctuated by recurring shooting wars, the Arab-Israeli impasse today is like a mine in the ocean, submerged but lethal. The trouble is that it's a big mine, primed and waiting for all of us. If it explodes, the conclusion this time could be enough to blow not only the Middle East but the U.S. and the USSR and Europe out of the water.

That's the sobering consensus that 50 of us Americans brought home recently after meeting with leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Israel, and the occupied territories.

If war comes there again next week, or next month or next year, it won't be simply another distant rumble of tanks and troops and guns. It's likely to become a matter of long-range missiles, some of them with biologic or chemical or atomic warheads. The next round in shooting threatens massive death and destruction. And how could the U.S., or the USSR, or Europe, hope to stay out of it? It could drag in half the world, disastrously.

What frightened us, as we held weeks of in-depth talks with dozens of those four countries' leaders, and heard from hundreds of ordinary Arabs and Israelis as well, was this:

There are still reasonable leaders and citizens on both sides, but they are discouraged and frustrated. They've struggled through unrewarding decades of a slogging "peace process" that still appears to be going nowhere. Sincere diplomats in every camp are more than just frustrated. Some have already lost power, or are on the verge of losing power, into the hands of growing numbers of irresponsible hot-heads. "Fundamentalism," is on the rise. Militantists on both sides are positioning themselves to take over and "settle matters" once and for all, by more violence and war.

Even the coolest of heads, whether those of leaders or citizens, are falling more and more under the rising influence of fundamentalists—Muslims, Jews, and Christians. There is a growing sense of everyone's being held hostage by them, of being at the mercy of angry men in, or not yet quite in, control of power. That, plus the ominous sense of millions of Arabs and Israelis that they are increasingly at the mercy of the worst among them—men who have in their hearts hatred and in their heads little

rationality, men who hold in their hands ways and weapons for committing further terrible atrocities.

We found the dreams of rational leaders and citizens of goodwill were turning into nightmares.

War came too close to happening while we were there. First, an Israeli madman, wearing army clothes, coldly executed seven Palestinian refugee workmen from the occupied Gaza Strip. When their friends and families, brandishing sticks and stones, advanced on Israeli military redoubts inside the vast barbed-wire concentration camp that is the occupied Gaza Strip, and when other Palestinians in the occupied West Bank staged protest marches or riots, some 20 more Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded.

In retaliation, PLO maverick Abu Abbas sent Palestinian raiders to attack Tel Aviv by sea. He claimed his targets were military officers at a beach club, but Israelis were convinced that if his guerrillas hadn't been intercepted and killed or captured, they might have murdered hundreds of innocent sun-bathers on the holiday beaches.

Had that been the result, the fundamentalist new government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir might well have launched a "final solution" war, to drive hundreds of thousands of Palestinians out of the West Bank and across the river into Jordan. Many believe that is still on the Israeli government's agenda, in any event. That Israel, in final frustration, and in the hands of Prime Minister Shamir, who talks of a "Greater Israel"—a government that has already made clear it will never give up the West Bank, nor halt the building of Jewish settlements there, nor accept an international Jerusalem as called for by the United Nations—is simply waiting for a propitious excuse. If Israel's formidable army, fed up on fighting rock-throwing intifada children, is turned loose, it is likely to stake out new parameters in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

That, in turn, could bring on missiles, launched by Syria, or from Iraq. President Saddam Hussein has already threatened the use of long-range missiles with chemical warheads, if attacked by Israel. If Israel came under such attack, could Shamir refrain from retaliation, maybe even with his atomic weapons?

That is why we 50 Americans came home scared. We went to try to stay—with our pre-announced "position paper"—that we then stood for the American "peace process." Across mainly fruitless decades the U.S., trying to accomplish the impossible—to keep the Soviets out of the Middle East, to protect our "client" state of Israel, and to salvage autonomy for the Palestinians forced out of much of the Holy Land—has finally found its uninspired diplomacy on the rocks.

In exasperation recently, Secretary of State James Baker finally lost his cool with Shamir, whose Likud party has consistently derailed U.S. peacekeeping efforts. (If you really want peace, call us, Baker told Shamir. We won't call you.) And a few days later, President Bush had to tell the PLO's Yasser Arafat that we were equally exasperated with his failed promises on terrorism. The "near-massacre" by Abbas in Tel Aviv was too much for Americans. Call us when you're ready for peace, Bush told Arafat.

Later that same night, four Middle East experts on the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour agreed that there was now

simply no American peace process left.

We 50 Americans returned sadly convinced that the U.S. cannot, as it has tried to do—successfully perhaps in a few instances, but more often ineptly and sometimes disastrously (i.e., our failure ever to control the invasion of Lebanon by Israel and the counter-invasion by Syria, and then failure to redeem our American hostages by ridiculously supplying weapons, through Israel, to a sworn enemy, Iran)—that America cannot any longer try to play this critical international game alone.

Almost from the beginning, Arab states have called for an international peace conference, presumably under the auspices of the United Nations. But Israel, obviously fearful of entering the lion's den of an anti-Israel U.N., has doggedly refused.

Is there a way around the Middle East impasse? A way that does not expose Israel to an overbearing U.N. convocation of its endemic enemies? A way that might bring together only Israel and its contiguous enemies, neighbours who have never yet met face-to-face around a table? A way to offer all of them a chance really to talk? A way just to see whether, in one room, over however many weeks or months, they might actually find a modus vivendi?

Should such a conference fail, it would at least have provided the world with evidence that both sides had been honestly willing to try. Should some miraculous agreement be forthcoming, on the other hand, it would of course have to include some kind of fail-safe international guarantee. Such a guarantee would be necessary, in advance.

Does the collapse of Soviet communism, and its empire and its armaments, offer a dramatic new way out? That plus the collapse of the Amer-

ican peacemaking monopoly in the Middle East? Is there any more substantive potential manner for Americans and Soviets to pursue peace in their post-cold war world than to cooperate in defusing this power-keg? A joining of hands by the world's two superpowers, with an integrated U.S.-USSR peace-keeping force, to help? To demonstrate that our two nations are truly serious about world peace, by pledging to work together to prevent a world war in the Middle East?

As the U.S. and the USSR slash their armies and artillery and tanks and missiles in the most comprehensive mutual disarmament of all time, an ominous spectre looms. Hundreds of thousands of disarmed U.S. and Soviet weapons are likely to flood the international arms markets. And where more readily disposed of, at fire-sale prices, than to a half-dozen countries preparing for the next war between Israel and its enemies?

How about a pair of offers from the U.S. and the Soviet Union? First, to forewear sending arms to the hottest hot-bed of the globe. And second, to provide a joint U.S.-Soviet guarantee to monitor and enforce a peace treaty arrived at by the Arab and Israeli contenders themselves?

If Israel truly wants both peace and security behind guaranteed borders, as it has never tired of proclaiming, if Palestinians truly want only the same; and if Arab governments have finally had enough of death and bankruptcy, and enough wars that have diminished their own security and violated their own borders, is it possible to hope that the two self-proclaimed superpowers of peace in the 1990's—now that we've forewarned atomic war between East and West—could become the catalyst for preventing a catastrophic war in the Middle East?

I cannot speak for the other 49 members of our "Mission for a Just Solution in the Middle East," a mission sponsored by the Pax World Foundation. Each of us committed ourselves, in whatever ways we can, to try to bring our message to the public.

I was a low man on the totem pole in that group of concerned Americans, many of them nationally and internationally known. My qualification for being among them was not much more than that I had covered, for the United Press, the first terrible Arab-Israeli war, in 1947-48. I had friends on both sides then, and still do, and I fret about them and about their children. Our group came home worried, as well, about ourselves, and about American and Soviet children.

Leading our peace mission were prestigious politicians and educators and religious leaders of many kinds. Our ad-hoc contingent included nine Jewish-Americans, two Palestinian-Americans, two Lebanese-Americans, and one Syrian-American. We were 50 citizens desperately hoping to find some solution for a conflict that has never yet had an answer.

Carrying the ball as our leader was former Republican Senator Charles (Chuck) Percy of Illinois. He already knew, personally, most of the heads of state and foreign ministers we met with, and many others as well. If you could have seen the way he was received by them, Arab and Israeli alike, with Middle East-type hugs and kisses, you would know that the United States, with all its well-intentioned but stumbling diplomacy, has not yet brought down on the tattered American flag a total sense of both Arab and Israeli frustration and disillusionment. Let's face it, there is more than just disillusionment with the Amer-

ican peace process. There is increasing hatred for Americans themselves, in some quarters, on both sides. We have not covered ourselves out there, with glory.

Among other internationally-known Americans in our leadership was former Republican (turned independent) presidential candidate John Anderson. Had it not been for an accident he suffered on the eve of departure, former Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern would have been with us, too. Filling his shoes, in a way, was internationally TV star Mike Farrell, of MASH fame, a man of sensitivity who has given great amounts of time to the sorrow of people of the Middle East and elsewhere. Mike Farrell and Chuck Percy and John Anderson—to show you what a close group we were—took turns carrying my camera case; since I'd gone on crutches, as official photographer, with a broken foot.

I don't think I ever met three people more genuinely committed to the world and its humanity. And the other 46, each in his or her own way, were out of the same cloth.

Maybe they will, or maybe they won't, but into this U.S.-Soviet proposal. Some of them, some of you, may think the idea a bit naive or idealistic. But at least it's a new idea. And virtually all the others, so far, have failed.

Other members of our group may well soon be in print with better ideas of their own. Whatever plans they may propose, however, I believe I can assure you, at least, that every one of them came home frustrated, and full of fear. And casting around in their minds for some magic formula for saving the Israelis from the Arabs and the Arabs from the Israelis.

Because they know the answer, if it exists, may save us all.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

July 26, 1990 [A]

At 70, Jabra Ibrahim Jabra still has a lot to tell

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Since he was born 70 years ago in Bethlehem, renowned Arab writer and critic Jabra Ibrahim Jabra has written 29 books — from novels and poetry to research and analysis — and translated more than 25 books to Arabic, most of which were works by William Shakespeare. At 70, Jabra continues to write and intends to do so in the future.

"After I finish a work of writing, the burden of beginning to write more is renewed; writing that is not only waiting for me to do it, but insisting that I do it," Jabra told a large crowd during a lecture at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation last week.

"Every work I finish is a launching point for another. It paves the way for future work. I don't deny that I ask myself after this long journey: 'Haven't I said enough? Haven't I expressed my points of view on life through art, novels and poetry?' Maybe I have come close to expressing some of my points of view, but coming close is not enough... for coming close is not arriving," were Jabra's inspiring words.

The artist's history of work and experience is very im-

pressive. Not once since the early 1940s did he stop working. Jabra received his first higher education degree, a Bachelor of Arts in English literature from Cambridge University in England in 1944, after which he taught the subject at Al Rashidiyah College in Jerusalem until 1948.

That year, he received a Master's Degree in English literature again from Cambridge, after which he became a professor at the Baghdad College of Arts and Sciences and at Queen Alia College (in Amman) until 1952. In 1954 he was awarded a research fellowship in literature criticism from Harvard University in Boston. Jabra lectured in various universities in Britain and the United States on Arabic literature.

He did not write until 1955: his first book was *Stories From Contemporary English Literature*, and the second, a novel published in 1955, titled *Screams in the Long Night*. His last works include a book written in English (1988) titled *A Celebration of Life*, and a complete collection of his poetry (1990).

"If the bridge is to continue connecting and if thoughts and ideas remain, there is a self-necessity of not wanting to arrive... then, have I said in words (from my point of view,

of course) everything since my youth? Definitely not," Jabra said at the gathering.

An artist's ability and necessity to always write and produce, he added, is caused by words that are constantly stored in the artist's mind, and later released in art-form involved reality and imagination.

"If the final result of individual art leads to culture in general, then the individual art is naturally related to culture as a whole. The effect of individual innovation is a connection between the artist and society, and at the same time a connection to human thought and its ability to create or rebuild relationships between the individual and the society — this includes a wider structure of life as a whole. This is where the word 'politics' comes in its basic meaning," Jabra analysed in his beautifully-chosen words in Arabic.

Culture and politics

In all important civilisations throughout history, culture and politics have been related for the benefit of both, according to Jabra who is an Iraqi citizen. He added that both sectors understand that each is different, and that "culture leads, politics follows."

Since the mid-19th century, it has not been easy in the Arab World to separate between culture and politics because the cultural struggle was the more inspiring to the political orientation, Jabra said, an argument that was later disputed by members of the audience.

"The political action that does not lead to results of confirming freedom of thought and other freedoms that individual innovators feed on is action against culture as a whole, and which leads to its extinction," the writer said. "And the definite result of cultural extinction is political extinction."

Jabra, who has been awarded cultural prizes from various European and Arab countries, said that seeing culture in political terms is another worry he carries with him, adding that one must continue to be inspired by worry in order to write and to "widen the horizons of society." He said this eventually leads to the interaction of culture and politics in order to remain existent.

"Despite all these convictions, doubt overcomes me at times and I would ask: 'Is it possible that he who insists to put pen on paper year after year not give up? Did he see a grain sprouting, a flower

blooming or a tree bear fruit?' During these times of pessimism, I remember an old friend when we were under 20 years of age and we were struck with book fever and I was particularly struck with writing fever," Jabra recalled.

When the young Jabra complained to his friend about his unhappiness with what he (Jabra) wrote, his friend told him: "The best that needed to be said has been said. The greatest that needed to be written has already been done. Why do you want to write? Why do you bring on to yourself this headache when there are millions of books for you to read about everything you could possibly think of and imagine? Don't bring on to yourself this frustration and enjoy all the cultures brought to you by others."

According to Jabra, he was not convinced with his friend's argument because his mind was stimulated by the worry which he said gave him energy and drive.

The writer quoted an old Arab writer, Abu Hayan Al Tawhidi who was constantly in trouble and in hiding because of what he wrote. This writer advised others not to openly declare the truth because it could be dangerous for the writer.

Elaborating further on the

advice, Jabra said: "In other words, let the inside censor work and hang the sword of Damocles above your neck, and then work with your mind — the mind that changes so quickly. Ease your way toward imagination and force oppression on your tongue: be cautious!"

Al Tawhidi himself did not follow his own advice, but Jabra said that until today one continues to read the "most beautiful and honest words" written by him.

Jabra said, no matter how much pessimism or optimism a writer writes, the words emerge from the core of the writer, "as the water does from the rock needing to open a passage."

"If a drop by drop makes a stream and a stream by stream creates a river, then a word on top of a word creates a flood that could only give birth to some form of life, even if the stream of the flood lies in the sand," were Jabra's chosen imagery to describe his view of writing in this part of the world.

He concluded by asking: "So what would it be like, if this flood overcame this Arab Land that is so great with its plains, valleys and mountains... its earth filled with seeds that suffered drought and will one day sprout?"

Dutchman crucified before thousands in Passion Play

By Rosemary Laurent
Reuters

TEGELEN, Netherlands — Every Sunday a 33-year-old Dutch insurance broker is crucified before an audience of thousands.

Hans Vorstermans is starring in the Tegelen Passion Play, a reenactment of Christ's betrayal and death staged every five years by the residents of this southern Dutch town.

Though a more modest affair than the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play, showing this summer to packed houses in West Germany, more than 40,000 spectators are expected at the Tegelen show before it ends in September.

With a cast of 350, from babies in arms to 80-year-old grandparents, most families in Tegelen are involved in the play either on or off stage. Vorstermans and his co-stars have devoted all their free time in the last 18 months to rehearsing their roles.

"I understand Jesus better now. I no longer see him as a mystic but as an ordinary man," the blond and bearded Vorstermans told Reuters in an interview.

In the final scene he is strung up on a three metre wooden cross, blood apparently dripping from his pierced hands and feet.

"Hanging on the cross is quite something. When they bring me down, my arms feel dead," said Vorstermans after his first performance last month.

Passion plays are put on by Catholic communities all over the world.

The Oberammergau spectacle is staged once a decade in a mountain village in Bavaria to keep a vow made by locals who survived a plague in 1633.

In Tegelen, a sleepy town in the Netherlands' predominantly Catholic province of Limburg, the tradition dates only from 1931.

"People wanted to do

something to popularise the story of Christ, especially the Passion because that's the nucleus of our faith," said Wim Beurskens, a 37-year-old doctor who heads the play's organising committee.

"Right from the start there was so much interest in participating that they built a special open air theatre for it," Beurskens told Reuters.

In its heyday in the 1950s, the Tegelen play drew 100,000 spectators each season. Numbers dwindled over the next two decades but interest has revived in recent years, Beurskens said.

This year the organisers are expecting few empty places in the 3,500-seat theatres for the three-hour Sunday afternoon performances, which opened on June 17 and will run until Sept. 30.

Spectators, most dressed in their Sunday best, follow the play intensely with the help of an annotated script, which explains archaic Dutch terms and provides historical background to the story.

Backstage the mood is more relaxed. A group of Roman soldiers enjoy a game of cards between scenes and families, clad in early Christian robes, sit around wooden tables munching sandwiches and drinking beer.

Under a tree, a donkey waits patiently to carry Jesus into Jerusalem, while the younger members of the cast amuse themselves in a sandpit.

Although all the actors are amateurs, about three-quarters of them are veteran Passion players. One 80-year-old woman has appeared in every production since 1931.

Frans Lommen, a 38-year-old civil servant playing Judas for the second time, first appeared in the crowd at the age of 15.

Lommen, who also boasts two seasons as Peter, said acting in the Passion Play was simply part of living in Tegelen.

"Once you've got started, it's very hard to stop," he said.

In France, rock is still a government concern

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — Undeterred by rock 'n' roll's anti-establishment heritage, the government is trying to bolster one of France's less-renowned industries through the work of a 27-year-old junior minister of rock.

"Monsieur Rock," as he was dubbed by the press, is Bruno Lion, a denim-clad dynamo with degrees in law and political science.

His official title at the Culture Ministry is "charge de mission" for rock and pop music, but he doesn't object when the title is translated as junior minister.

He was picked last year by Culture Minister Jack Lang to revitalise a domain long dominated by foreign talent or homegrown copycats.

The appointment met with ridicule and even outrage from some critics who believe rock loses its soul by being absorbed by the established.

"Any country that needs a minister for rock is not a rock country," said Lionel Rotcage, editor of the French edition of Rolling Stone magazine. "He should resign — that would be the rock thing to do."

Lion, the son of a prominent businessman, has persevered, chasing down financial and media support. With a 1990 budget of 43 million francs (\$7.8 million), he expects to set up a solid support structure for musicians and industry professionals, including direct subsidies to artists.

His tasks also involve promoting native talent — no easy matter given France's dearth of concert space and poor reputation as an inspiration for rock.

"France is under-equipped compared to its neighbours. When I took the job, we had as many concert halls as there are in Greater London or in

Holland, and we're 12 times bigger," Lion said in an interview.

His priority is to get groups out of suburban basements and subway stations and onto the stages of concert halls and clubs. Since he took office in May 1989, the government has helped finance nearly 100 new auditoriums.

Lion's appointment was hardly a disinterested cultural gesture.

"A little investment can go a long way," Lion said, noting

ly. "At this year's new music seminar in New York, about 250 French musicians will perform, as opposed to only 10 in 1988 and 196 in 1989," he said. "At least half of them will come away with contracts and bookings."

A follow-up measure includes the opening of a French music office in New York in 1991.

Lion, however, is concerned about the new U.S. immigration requirements for

"France is under-equipped compared to its neighbours. When I took the job, we had as many concert halls as there are in Greater London or in Holland, and we're 12 times bigger," Bruno Lion says. His priority is to get groups out of suburban basements and subway stations and onto the stages of concert halls and clubs. Since he took office in May 1989, the government has helped finance nearly 100 new auditoriums.

that the government earns more than 1 billion francs (\$180 million) yearly in taxes from record sales.

Although his job goes beyond taking Lang to rock concerts, Lion does see himself as something of a talent scout. He said he works 14-hour days, lobbying for formation of a major, all-French record company, financing music videos, trying to get rock into high schools.

One of his goals is to launch French groups international-

artists seeking temporary work permits. Lang and the other West European culture ministers have protested the measures, which virtually exclude all but a handful of foreign performers who can prove "financial success and artistic worth."

"The American laws discriminate against foreign artists," Lion said. "Look at Zouk Machine, number one on the top 50 charts here for three straight weeks. They are still waiting for their visa."

FRANK TALK : Public Security (police) Department Director General Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid this week hosted a working lunch for newspaper editors, television and radio directors and senior journalists. The subject of talk was how the police and the media can interact in order to serve the best interests of the country and the public. Gen. Fuheid, the various directors of his department who were present, and the media representatives voiced deep appreciation of each other's role in protecting and informing citizens, and spoke in favour of increased cooperation to preserve and strengthen the fabric of our society as a whole. The discussion was serious, in that it included objective criticism of the two institutions' performance, but it was also friendly as part of the criticism was light-hearted in substance and form. Gen. Fuheid cited a story that appeared in one Arabic daily recently. The headline read: "Police fine man JD 207 and insult him for traffic violation." The truth of the matter, Gen. Fuheid said, is that the man in question was driving his car against traffic in a one-way street, and he was the one who insulted the policeman for stopping him. "How the newspaper came up with the earlier version, and accused us, without checking with the department first, I don't know," the police chief said. "And then, the fine was only JD 50 (for a first-degree traffic offence). Where did the figure JD 207 come from?" he asked, promising that such meetings with the media would have to continue for the benefit of all involved.

OVERSEAS CALLS AND PETRA BANK: No sooner had the Jordan Times published a summary of the situation leading up to the collapse of Petra Bank (July 23, 1990) than the bank's former chairman and general manager, Ahmad Chalabi, called in to say that he had read the article and had a comment or two on it. Obviously a copy of the article was telefaxed to him since he is supposed to be out of town. "I was angry at first, and thought of suing the Jordan Times," Chalabi told the writer of the story. "But then, a second reading of the article made me humorous, particularly that you have portrayed me as a banking 'superman' manipulating Jordanian banking from his central computer console," he went on. "In any event, I am not a fugitive banker and had to leave the country simply because the writing was on the wall of what had awaited me... it's more political and personal than just monetary," Chalabi contended in his 40-minute telephone call. "I have an address, a telephone number and they know where to reach me," he said, declining to reveal who "they" were, and categorically rejecting all charges levelled against him. It was a long and arduous conversation, with Chalabi sometimes quoting figures (all in millions, of course) and at other times countering questions with questions rather than direct answers. Skirting the issue of where he was calling from, he quoted from the Jordan Times: "I am a businessman, and I travel a lot... Beirut, Damascus, Hong Kong, Bangkok, London, Geneva..." but he promised to stay in touch.

RUMOURS, RUMOURS: "According to Jordan's rumour mill, the prime minister has asked ministers and department heads to keep record of all deputies' pleadings with the government on behalf of individuals. According to the rumour, the prime minister wants to have evidence that deputies were breaching what they have advocated all along that nepotism and connection (wasta) are still used in government-business and in official appointments." The rumour cannot be true, wrote Deputy Fakhri Kaware, who is also a columnist for Al Ra'i newspaper. "Although I am not a minister or director general of any department, I want to deny the rumour and plead to those circulating it not to tell it again because I have the proof that the rumour is false," Kaware went on. His proof, Kaware said, is that all concerns in which deputies intervene on behalf of citizens are legitimate concerns. "These people's concerns are guaranteed by the constitution and the laws, and deputies are only responding to citizens' pleas for help," Kaware wrote. These people's concerns should not have been denied in the first place, forcing people to run for help. Kaware, at one point in his column, suggested that deputies should open files to record officials' shortcomings, but quickly changed his mind, saying he believed such "a practice does not confirm to my work ethics." That is why "I deny the rumour, because it has no valid reasons," he concluded. There has been no public comment on the article by officials, but everybody is betting their rent that the prime minister will be bemused by the fact that Deputy Kaware has finally come out of the woodwork to deny a rumour on behalf of the government.

ACCORDING TO THE PRIEST: Who said priests are conservative by nature? One high ranking Anglican priest, Bishop Elia Khouri no less, seems to be holding the torch of rebellion against one of church's oldest institutions: Marriage. He recently pleaded with a bachelor journalist who was attending his cousin's wedding never to enter the "golden box" saying that marriage was a "failed institution." Bishop Khouri, who is a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee, obviously was not thinking about the demographic factor in Palestine when he extended his wise — albeit, in this case, controversial — advice since the journalist was not a Palestinian. "The bishop says that to everybody," says a close aide, "not least to those bridegrooms who enter the church for their wedding ceremony." The aide thinks Bishop Khouri's exhortations to bachelors have to do more with personal experiences than with any demographic and political factors.

WHAT FOOD INSECURITY?: If you believe reports that Jordan is facing food insecurity problems you are in for a mild surprise. In a recent report, in a local daily, it was reported that Jordan overproduces fresh milk by 5-7 tonnes per day. The amount goes literally down the drain because of a row between producers and processors who apparently prefer to use the imported and subsidised powder milk. By the way the authorities recently intervened and raised the prices of dairy products to encourage processors to use fresh milk. Processors had for a long time been complaining they were making no profit, but one of them confided that even before the price rise they were making handsome profits. Increased profit is good profit, a proverb goes. However, and for reasons unknown to us, the Ministries of Supply and Agriculture, according to another report that appeared in the same newspaper, the same day, the same page, intend to import 3,000 heads of milk cows — 1,500 in August and the rest in September. Maybe by next year we'll start exporting fresh milk to offset our deficit of imported dry milk.

Abdullah Hassanat

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 26

8:30 A Different World
9:10 Dolphin Cove
10:00 News in English
10:20 Movie of the Week

Friday, July 27

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show
9:10 Midnight Caller
10:00 News in English
10:20 Anything More would be Greedy

Saturday, July 28

9:00 Encounter
Rami Khouri meets with economist Mamdouh Salameh to discuss the issue of "is the third world energy crisis inevitable?" Encounter is directed by Mr. Zeid Fareez.
9:30 Classical Music
10:00 News in English
10:20 Feature Film
Jezebel
Starring: Bette Davis and Henry Fonda

Sunday, July 29

9:10 The Nuclear Age
Zero Hour
When the USSR deployed "400" 55.20 nuclear missiles in Eastern Europe, the Americans offered their "zero-option" plan seven years later with Pershing missiles planted in Western Europe. The Russian accepted the "zero-option" plan.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hunter

Unacceptable Loss

Monday, July 30

8:30 Perfect Strangers
Nightmare Vacation
Larry and Balki plan to spend their vacation on one of those dreamy islands in the company of their girlfriends. Little do they know what awaits them there.

9:10 Murder She Wrote
Doom With a View
Sandra, the computer operator, is found dead in her room in the hotel. Jessica investigates her case and finds that Sandra was a victim of blackmailing.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Endless Game
A professional killer hunts and murders Caroline, an ex-British agent who had been released from KGB imprisonment long ago. Somebody is wondering: Why kill her now?

Tuesday, July 31

8:30 Golden Girls
Strange Bedfellows
When the election candidate Koster claims that he once had an affair with Blanche, she disagrees and reprimands him. And what an excuse he gives her for his allegation.

9:10 Heart of the High Country
Calvin turns out to be very mean. He brings in the spinsters and cruel Miss Robertson to look after the kids ... and ends up shooting Jock, and Reg shoots him in return, and Ceci is widowed again.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise
The Ghost Dance
Three bad ones kill some-

one and try to have the town people believe that Ethan's friend, the Indian, is behind all the trouble. Ethan disagrees vehemently.

11:10 Police Squad
Revenge and Remorse
A few explosions rock the city and prompt a quick police investigation and discover that a woman is behind the mysterious explosions.

Wednesday, Aug. 1

8:30 You Rang M'lord
The butler wants to come up with 200 pounds at any cost, because he believes that the money will help him acquire some company shares. Fate intervenes cruelly to his disadvantage.

9:10 Documentary
Good Evening Jordan

10:00 News in English

10:20 Summer's Lease
The Upright Trail
Finally Molly unravels all the mysteries and travels to Florence and meets with Buck ... she alleviates his worries and flies back to London with her family.

Shylock's cafeteria

By E. Yaghi

SHYLOCK is a man whose bald face extends over his round forehead and ends in a narrow ring of hair at the bottom of his head. On a clear or cloudy day, Shylock's head and face shine, mirroring whatever light is available. Shylock looks like a man who is neither rich nor poor, but a member of the ever replete middle class. His dress, almost shabby and dull, seems to reflect the innocence of his observant yet quiet personality.

Every afternoon and evening, Shylock sits in the cool air in front of his small cafeteria, blowing bubbles in his waterpipe with long contemplative puffs. He is a happy square little man who always wears a smile on his round little face. His benevolent eyes twinkle with merriment as he overlooks the swarm of gaily dressed children who dance across congested streets to buy from him pastel coloured ice cream, then retreat in licking waves to eat their tasty melting cones on the mountain circle.

Shylock is master of his small world. His customers come from near and far to partake of his delectable shawarma, ice cream and slush. Cars casually stop on leisurely journeys to enable their inhabitants to purchase some of Shylock's fair ware.

Evenings dressed in purple velvet and decorated with diamond stars witness throngs of passersby lapping their pastel cones or hungrily devouring a shawarma sandwich. Police cars sometimes stop too with neatly dressed policemen popping out to buy some of Shylock's savory morsels. Shylock is cordial and friendly to them as well as to all his customers. He chuckles down his mirth in happy conversation sometimes feigning shock at soaring prices and poor business.

However, few are fortunate enough to venture inside Shylock's little parlour hidden within his cunning web of

deceit. Inside lurk deadly germs that so many of Shylock's customers eat unaware. Near the brightly coloured ice cream machine stands a bucket used to mix powdered milk which is always left uncovered and is a reservoir for the dead flies that fall into it. But no matter to Shylock. What are a few happy dead flies? Perhaps they enhance the flavour of his pastel ice cream.

And who is there to see the hidden boxes of cheap frozen meat used to mix the shawarma? And who is there to also notice that the leftovers of today's shawarma go into a humble shrewd casserole to make tomorrow's grand entry. Yes, Shylock is indeed a lucky man! He is lord of his little commercial castle. The ring of money is music to his bald little ears that hear no evil. And his bald little eyes sparkle in innocence as he sees no evil and his little forked tongue retreats in coyness as he speaks no evil. He is a paragon of unevil, sitting on his small simple chair selling his wares to his eager customers.

Often he may be seen laughing to himself as in exhilaration he remembers the old days when he was plagued by food inspectors. Shylock rewarded them with his craftiness. Bribery goes such a long way. Soap and water are almost unheard of inside his little shop. Shylock's water bill is incredibly low and his sewage pipes are always clogged from excess fat that is constantly dumped into them.

But no problem. Shylock is happy. He is a paternal figure to all the beautiful innocent young children who flock in their best evening clothes to buy his delicious ice cream under the purple velvet sky, where the pale bald man in the moon smiles down on them with the same sweet smile of Shylock, while dainty little flies chortle their last breath in a deadly milky swim near the tangy aroma of heavily spiced frozen meat that twirls around, with a merry sound, near the busy carousel circle of Shylock's cafeteria, where Shylock's motto is: "Don't worry, be happy!"

Hamarnah contributes to a new look of nineties with originality

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new and young designer is starting her career in Jordan, after spending four years in the United States, studying fashion design. Rania Hamarnah, who started out on her own earlier this year, is very enthusiastic about making a name for herself in Jordan as a fashion designer.

"My designs are simple and straight forward," Hamarnah told the Jordan Times WEEKENDER. She made her debut earlier this year in a

fashion show she had in March. In the show she featured her summer and a few designs of her winter collection.

Her summer wear includes lots of shorts, mini-skirts and jupe culottes. She also features regular classic pants, with bell bottoms and high-waisted pants which are matched with short jackets. "I like to add a touch of abstract to my designs, which I try to minimise to keep up with society, without looking sight of my own creativity, and character," Hamarnah said. The material she uses in her summer wear, is mostly crepe, mouseline and cotton. The colours are black, khaki, orange, purple and mustard.

Hamarnah has also created the look of the nineties with her business suit collection. She also features navy and checkers suits. For evening wear and cocktail dresses, Hamarnah chose to do her line mostly in black. "I think black is very classy, it gives a grand look and it attracts attention," she said. Her dresses are made of silk, with simple and straight forward designs. She also incorporates mouseline in her line, to add a certain touch to the dresses. "I use mouseline mostly as drapery, coming off the shoulder or the hair, or if I have a V cut in the back. Sometimes I use it simply as a shawl," Hamarnah added.

Although Hamarnah has not used sequins in her designs, she says that she has not ruled out that possibility in her future designs. "My winter collection will have a lot of sequins and embroidery, but for right now what I do mostly



Summer ensemble in mustard and black

is mix fabrics, and play around with bottoms and trimmings," she said.

"I design for younger people, especially those in their twenties, because they are within the age group that can adopt and change their styles of dressing," Hamarnah said. She also added that she tries to maintain a certain price range, that her customers, especially the young ones, can afford.

Hamarnah, a graduate of Kansas State University, said she faced some problems when she first started. "I think the most difficult problem, is the fact that people still do not know the differ-

ence between a fashion designer and a regular dress-maker," she said.

Hamarnah is working now on a new concept that will be seen in an upcoming fashion show. In the show, Hamarnah will feature 60 pieces of her collection. Her concept will be an attempt to update and modernise the traditional folkloric dress, to an everyday wear.

"I want to be able to market it internationally, and make it known to the world, without moving away from its basic style of embroidery and fabric," she said.

The fashion show is scheduled on Aug. 2.

PEN FRIENDS

To the Editor:

We would be very grateful if you could kindly publish our names in your most esteemed paper for pen pals. We are three young Ghanaians who wish to correspond with pen pals from your beautiful country, Jordan. Below are our particulars:

Name: Miss Rose Rita Brown — age 22 years, girl student.
K. Dom P.O. Box 126
Cape Coast
Ghana — West Africa
Hobbies: reading, music, sports, culture.

Name: Miss Emma Rita Rhule — age 23 years, girl student.
P.O. Box 310, Cape Coast
Ghana — West Africa

Hobbies: Sports, account and music.

Name: Emmanuel Rhule — age 23 years, boy student.
P.O. Box 126, Cape Coast
Ghana — West Africa

Hobbies: Singing, swimming dancing, culture.

We hope our request will meet your kind consideration and for publishing our names and address.

Miss Rose Rita Brown
C/o Joseph Rhule K. Dom
P.O. Box 126
Cape Coast
West Africa

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson

Across

1 Just out
2 P.D.O.
3 Shoot the breeze
4 Sounds in pounds
5 Roof rita
6 Fr. novelists
7 Ring of light
8 IA utopia
9 PIGEON
10 In a line
11 Come to be
12 A Waugh
13 Fighter Spinks
14 PARROT
15 Farewell
16 Current units
17 Cry of surprise
18 Slurred
19 Files

DOWN
1 Pouch pest
2 Actual
3 Tranquillize
4 Porter
5 Before DDE
6 Come around
7 Weaver of "Golfers in the Mist"
8 Yemen port
9 Domesticated
10 — the bit walls (impatiently)
11 Goes on about
12 Eminent
13 Tug line
14 Monkey's uncle?
15 Mass response
16 Hindu melody
17 Interviewee
18 Sound

Diagramless 17 X 17, By Harvey Chyles

ACROSS
1 Aspire
2 Composer Alban
3 Straightforward
4 Denial decay
5 Return bout
6 Windflower
7 Angry
8 "Norma" —
9 Business abbr.
10 Pernil
11 Vatican resident
12 Basketball team

DOWN
1 Residence
2 "Three Men — Horse"
3 Fetus
4 Get away
5 Pennant
6 Built
7 Edge
8 Earth sci.
9 Present
10 Biblical pronoun
11 Early brother

40 Glittering object
41 Tell legend site
42 CHICKEN
43 Kind of moth
44 Pitch tent
45 Half wear
46 Disconnected
47 Race
48 Roman wear
49 Listen in
50 Author Levin
51 Set the price
52 Worry
53 MAGPIE
54 Steel plunge
55 Is loyal
56 Helpful hints
57 Howl
58 Comic Joe
59 Bodily
60 Br. gun

24 Actress Valli
25 Decorate with
26 Certain gems
27 Freshwater food
28 Dict. item
29 Blond shade
30 Easy to grasp
31 Fabric native
32 Nineties
33 Bear witness
34 Makes tea
35 CROW
36 Sign up
37 Orange
38 Ingredient
39 Some put them on
40 Hindu melody
41 SWALLOW
42 Inmate?

36 Patelle locale
37 Foot part
38 Eccentric wheel
39 Public
40 Convergence
41 Longfellow or Burns
42 Water ily
43 Moist
44 Society entrant
45 Locomotive
46 Without much thought
47 Wheat husk

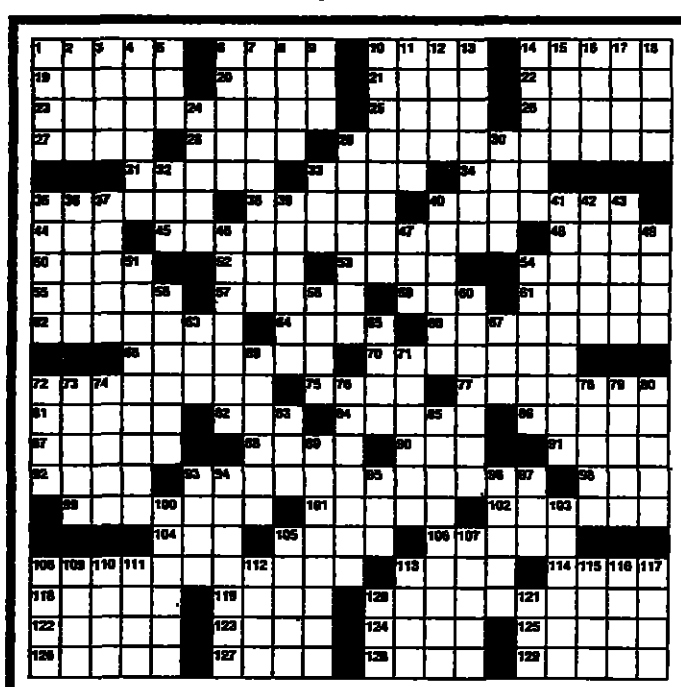
31 Plot of land
32 Numerical suffix
33 Enjoy a book
34 Took
35 Residents of an ancient region
36 Succotash
37 Ingredient
38 One — time
39 "Ado About Nothing"
40 Antlered animal

77 Takes hours
78 — as — to wage against (King Lear)
79 Half wear
80 Disconnected
81 Race
82 Roman wear
83 Listen in
84 Author Levin
85 Set the price
86 Worry
87 MAGPIE
88 Steel plunge
89 Is loyal
90 Helpful hints
91 Howl
92 Comic Joe
93 Bodily
94 Br. gun

56 Claws
57 Comedian
58 Decorate with
59 Certain gems
60 Fr. author Jean
61 Beaver for one
62 Semaphoric
63 Ending for super or inferior
64 Hilo helios
65 Artery layer
66 Young elephant
67 Singled kin
68 Get around
69 Whetstone
70 Dropped off
71 Society entrant
72 Locomotive
73 Without much thought
74 Wheat husk

54 151
55 "Exodus" hero
56 Diving bird
57 Inhabited by
58 Clear and
59 Hilo helios
60 Hilo helios
61 Hilo helios
62 Hilo helios
63 Hilo helios
64 Hilo helios

46 Conference
47 Jungle king
48 Smelling waste
49 Youngsters
50 Chip
51 Lunar landing
52 Lute
53 Continental prefix
54 Fabricator
55 Beatty or Kaimor
56 Grain type



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Bulletin: Gorgeous coolest winner forfeits big crown for little wedding ring.
2. You may have my recipe for leftovers: Briefly barbecue them on charcoal at family picnics.
3. Mounted police officer, working the desk to dawn patrol, calls his female horse "Nightmare."
4. Photographers found beautiful double rainbow awe-inspiring.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. JNTL DNCAOTL'E DIBOS PTE CITHNH PAZS
T KYNES OTZOS IK PILHNVKBC EJTC
JREENCE —By Earl Inland

2. UGGH NGENG LBHUYLCL TPEA NCWCH
TV PLAYER KCH: "PHC VGB NKC WQPE
PHRPERCH" —By Ed Huddleston

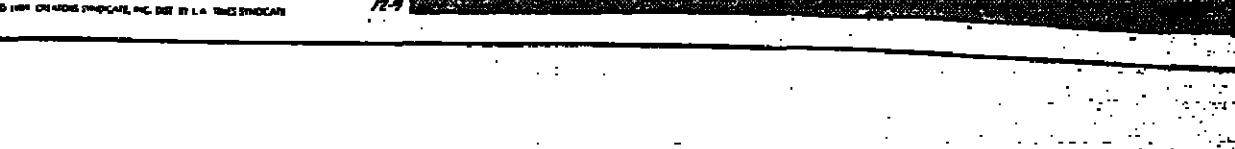
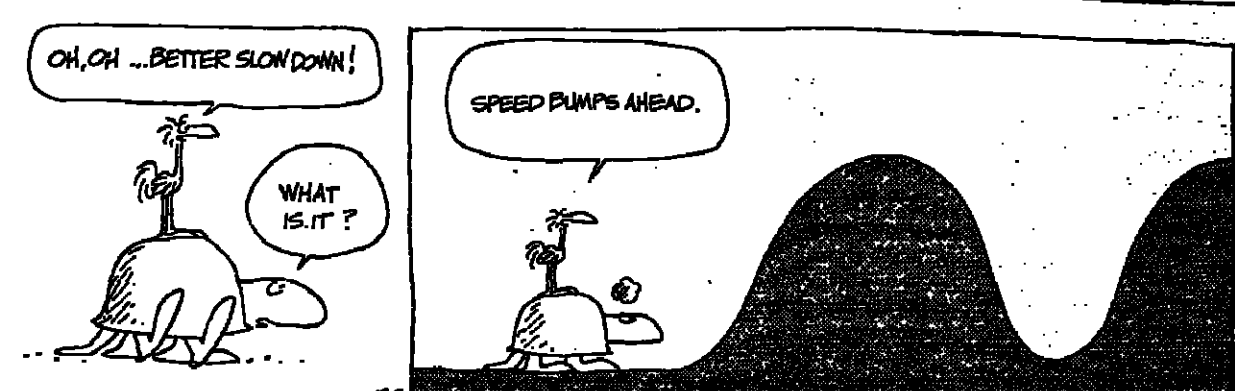
3. DRL TCO N XIAMFNY ENFWZ DLYG ICO LCO
IAOZX MNXR ELW N GFNMWAG TNYZ
OLLOR? —By Gordon Miller

4. ACH EFFY ACRLYD UGYRLI IFFS OFFS
GOONHEAD UFFS. —By Norton Rhoades



Pageboy style with an orange and black vest

B.C.



Glenda Jackson is not a 'champaigne Socialist'

By Michael Rank
Reuter

LONDON — "I've never drunk champagne in my life," said Oscar-winning actress Glenda Jackson, puffing on a cigarette and nursing a glass of black Guinness beer.

Jackson, running for parliament in the next general election, curiously dismissed charges that she is a "champaigne Socialist."

She will be fighting to represent the opposition Labour Party and plans to base her campaign for the election, due by mid-1992, on what she regards as the collapse of the state health, education and welfare services under Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"I know my antecedents. I need no lectures on socialism," she told Reuters in an interview, displaying the bluntness for which she is well-known.

Jackson, 54, the daughter of a bricklayer from the north-



Glenda Jackson

western industrial town of Birkenhead, said she had been a Labour Party supporter all her life.

She said she was standing for parliament "because I dislike the attacks which are consistently being made on the health service, the nightmare that is state education at the moment."

"It seems to me that there is a push on the part of the government to make this country a mini-America, (with) the worst aspects of that society and few, if any, of its virtues."

Jackson said Britain was being Americanised in the sense that anything called "public" was bad in the gov-

ernment's eyes, "so public health, public good, public welfare...is being savaged in the pursuit of self, and I find that appalling."

She expressed scorn for another well-known actor turned politician, former U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

"He's famous. Whether he's an actor or not is debatable. I don't consider him an actor. I'm antipathetic to all his policies," she said.

Jackson, known for the fierce sincerity she brings to her roles, is now starring at London's Mermaid Theatre in a widely acclaimed production of Mother Courage, by the left-wing German playwright Bertolt Brecht.

She said she planned to continue acting full-time until the election campaign started in earnest. "You can't give up one profession till you're sure of another."

Jackson said she would be "hugely disappointed" if she failed to win the seat for the Hampstead and Highgate

constituency in north London, which is currently held by a Conservative with a small majority.

"It will mean we won't have a Labour government. It will only take a four per cent swing (for Labour to capture Hampstead)...if we don't win, it will be pain beyond tears."

Labour have a substantial lead in opinion polls, but face a tough battle against Thatcher, who has won three general elections in a row.

Jackson said she was encouraged by the tide of democracy sweeping Eastern Europe but there was a danger that those countries could be "turned into satellite Labour markets for a capitalist economy."

She was dismissive of the two Oscars she has won, in 1971 for Women in Love, in which she appeared in the nude, and in 1974 for A Touch of Class, one of her few comedies.

"Awards are about the people who give them and not

the people who receive them. They don't mean anything."

She said she was unable to comment on her own theatre performances because she could not view them. With her film roles, it was a matter of "either that you did solve the problem which is quite pleasant or that you didn't, which is highly unpleasant."

Asked to name a film in which she was dissatisfied with her performance, she replied with a laugh: No.

Jackson, who as divorced in 1976, said she lived with her 21-year-old son Daniel and had no intention of remarriage.

She said she did not believe her fame as an actress would be an advantage in the election.

"I think there are disadvantages which probably cancel out the advantages...for as many people who are prepared to like you for what you do, there are as many who are prepared to dislike you for what you do."

Japanese youth — everybody wants to join the band

By Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — Every Saturday night, millions of young Japanese tune their televisions to a rock band contest that has changed the face of pop music in Japan.

In only a year and a half, the show "Ika-ten Band Tengoku" (groovy band heaven) has become the hottest late TV programme. It has introduced more than 650 amateur bands from middle-aged office workers to freaks with their hair dyed blond.

The programme's name is usually abbreviated to "Ika-Ten," which also means fried squid. Last year, the editors of a dictionary of modern Japanese chose Ika-ten as the most popular new word in the country.

It represents a big change for Japanese teens, who mostly have regarded rock music as something to listen to rather than some as something to perform. Since the programme debuted, sales of musical instruments have surged.

There are at least 20,000 amateur rock bands in Tokyo alone had many more nationwide, estimates Akira Nishikawa, former producer of the show and vice president of Tokyo Broadcasting System, the commercial network that started the show in February 1989.

Several of the bands — Kabuki Rocks, Norma Jean, Jitterin' Jinn — have moved from the show to the top of the pop hit charts, displacing "idol singers" the naive and cute teenagers who had been the staple of Japanese pop.

Judges on each show pick a winner from 10 among contestants. If the winner repeats for several weeks, it gets a chance to make a record for professional release.

Whatever these rockers are saying, it's not the time-honoured idea of rebellion and protest, say musicians and commentators.

"We are not playing rock to protest against society or the government. It's been done before, and that's old," said Shinji Wajima, guitarist and vocalist with Ningen-Isu (human seat).

"We want to sing about the weakness of an individual, and something about how we can be more human," Wajima says.

"People used to sing folk and rock music for freedom, and that's what music is all about. We are not great, but we are happy to know even

we can do it."

His three-man band was launching a professional career in July. Until it appeared on the show last year, Ningen-Isu was unknown.

Commentators say few of the amateur bands believe they can turn professional, but they are striving for a taste of stardom and for some kind of contact with people in a society that is gaining affluence but losing the human touch.

The amateur band Phenomenon owes something to Karaoke, or singing along with a tape or video — popular in Japanese drinking places — and something also to the street in central Tokyo that is given over to rock bands every Sunday afternoon. Dozens of groups perform weekly, demonstrating that some Japanese youth exuberantly break out of the stereotypical mold of studying and pursuing careers.

In those street concerts, "performers and audiences are equal, which reassures them that they are not alone," said Tatsuya Iba, a writer for the magazine Let's Start a Band.

The magazine has seen its circulation grow to 300,000, and every month it runs 30 pages of ads from people looking for band members.

Osamu Nakano, communications professor at Hosei University in Tokyo, says Japanese youth do not know what to protest against or what to demand, and the point of the bands is to have fun with friends.

"Playing brand-name guitars in the spotlight, they are trying to experience superstardom," Nakano said. "But they know that it is not for real."

The growth of rock bands has spread to Japan Broadcasting Corp., the public television network. It is organising a national rock tournament, to which more than 4,100 amateur groups and individuals have applied, many more than expected. After regional contests, 20 bands will compete in November's final competition.

And what are the bands saying? Here's a lyric from a Ningen-Isu song, Tears of an Apple, sung to heavy-metal guitar crashing by bassist Kenichi Suzuki with violent shaking of his head.

"When a mountain crowd cries, a village girl picks an apple. Why, why, thinks the apple, why am I forced to be alone...?"

Paul Newman races on in three professions

By Mike Harris
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The precision-cropped hair is mostly gray, but those famous blue eyes remain clear, his skin unlined and his body trim.

At 64, Academy Award-winning actor Paul Newman races on, juggling success in three high-pressure, demanding professions: acting, the food business and auto racing. And his passions run high in all.

When he's not directing, acting or promoting his line of "Newman's Own" food products in the United States, he takes to the track. With his latest movie, Mr. and Mrs. Bridge, ready for release this fall, Newman's ready to race.

This season, he is driving a limited schedule on the SCCA's Trans-Am circuit as the teammate of 22-year-old Scott Sharp, the son of Bob Sharp, co-owner of Newman-

Sharp Racing. Newman has watched the younger driver improve almost daily and laments one small part of aging.

"A young driver like Scott, who's got a great gift, just keeps going faster and faster," Newman said during an interview before finishing 16th in a recent Trans-Am race in Cleveland.

"Young kids like Scott think about winning. I think about whether I'm going to have a pulse," he joked.

"When you get older and older, you start slowing down. Everything is off one-fifth of 1 per cent. Your eyes are a little off, your reflexes, touch — everything. You multiply that by just a factor of 1 per cent, that's two or three seconds a lap."

But Newman, whose interest in auto racing was generated on the set of Winning in 1968, doesn't regret his late start in the sport he now loves.

"I started at the right time.

I had the right kind of equipment," he said. "I don't regret anything. It came at the right time. I was getting bored acting."

Asked if racing revived his interest in other things, he joked that his wife, actress Joanne Woodward, says it saved their marriage. Woodward co-stars in Mr. and Mrs. Bridge, a chronicle of a middle-class American family.

Turning serious again, Newman said: "You become passionate about one thing, it leads back into something else. If you can gain a sense of passion and commitment in your life in one arena, it's bound to bleed back into other arenas."

Newman, who has earned four national amateur driving titles and two Trans-Am victories since beginning his racing career in 1972, says he never gave driving a race car much thought until he played an Indy-car driver in winning.

What was it that attracted him to the sport? "I don't know," he said. "It was just out there, like anything else, to be learned. I started off very slowly, very cautious, as I start off everything."

Since he has been successful at so much, people tend to believe things come easily to Newman. He insists the opposite is true.

"The light that you think you emanate is not necessarily the light that other people see," he said. "You think of yourself as a shy, retiring whatever it is, and some other

people will see you in an entirely different way."

"I had always seen (tennis star Ivan) Lendl as a guy with such a gift. The gift came before the work, but not according to Lendl. He says if he lays off for three weeks, he's garbage."

"You have to constantly learn. Obviously, you have to start with some kind of gift, but people don't understand that. ... I don't have a gift for anything. I've only had a gift of pursuit."

"That's certainly true in acting. I can't look at the work I did 20 years ago. I can't even watch it."

"In all the things I started to attack — football, tennis — I had no gift for it all. I had no gift for racing, either. It's just something that I really wanted to do."

Scott Sharp, sitting nearby, said, "Aw, Paul, you look good at everything you do."

"Come watch my tennis game sometime," Newman said, laughing. "I really did want to play tennis really badly. I was awful."

His schedule is jet-set, but more because of the multiple careers he is juggling than any need for glamour or celebrity.

"I was never able to delegate responsibility and I do have a full plate," Newman said. "The thing you don't realise is somebody sends you a script, as a friend, and all of a sudden, you're devoting five days and taking 20 pages of notes. There goes the whole damn week."

"I've got a script now that the chances of my doing are



Paul Newman at the tracks

probably one in 20. But you spend the time."

Will Newman, who remains in shape by running and working out on a stationary bike, stay around racing for a while?

"I have never made a plan about anything in my life and I don't see it starting to happen now," he said. "I still enjoy (racing). I don't enjoy going as slow as I'm going, but I still enjoy the competition."

Among the people that Newman has introduced to his adopted sport is Tom Cruise, his co-star in the 1987 film The Colour of Money. Cruise became so enamoured of auto racing he initiated and starred in, Days of Thunder, a movie

about stock car racing.

Newman politely refused to critique the movie, but he did say, "I think it will be very good for racing."

Asked if he thinks a great movie has yet been made about auto racing, Newman replied, "I'm not one to honk my own horn, but Winning, it seems to me, may have been the best movie about racing."

"Not because the racing footage was the best or anything, but because the people integrated into the racing. And, usually you find that people are inserted, or transplanted on top of, or glued to the story."

"Great movies ultimately have to be about people."



Newman (left) as an old professional pool player and his protégé, Tom Cruise, in a scene from The Colour of Money

Rome fashion show seeks to ennoble sagging image of Italian couture

ROME (AP) — A dinner with fashion show given by Roman prince-designer Giovanni Torlonia, the famed Spanish Steps as a runway backdrop and a gala buffet hosted by Prince Marina Doria of Savoy combined to ennoble the sagging image of Italian couture.

With all the partying and aristocratic elbow-rubbing, it was more of a high society than high fashion week, with almost as many elegant clothes seen off the runway as on. The weeklong showings for next fall and winter ended last Friday.

Talk of the town was the descent on Rome by Marina Doria, wife of Victor Emmanuel IV, son of the last king of Italy. The royal family was exiled from Italy when the country became a republic in 1946, and the male heirs were banned from returning even for a visit.

However, judging from the scramble for invitations to the blue-blooded event in honour of Italian designers, monarchic nostalgia still lingers in

the Italian capital.

Another of the week's most sought-after events was the presentation of his evening wear collection by Prince Giovanni Torlonia. It was the first couture collection of the young designer, sole heir to the vast Torlonia fortune, and also first member of the age-old dynasty to go to work.

To set off his sumptuous gowns, Torlonia chose young ladies of Roman aristocracy as models, who looked like they stepped out of gilt-framed ancestral paintings as they walked through the halls of the family's renaissance palace in downtown Rome.

A stone's throw from the Torlonia homestead are the famed Spanish Steps, which for the past five years have served as backdrop for the grand finale of the Rome fashion week, with couture and ready-to-wear designers alike parading their wares for next year's winter fashion.

Last Thursday night 18 of Italy's top designers, including Armani, Valentino, Versace, Fendi and Ferre,

showed the best of their evening wear on the moonlit steps. For the production, which was televised around the world, each designer chose a celebrity to accompany the collection.

Actress Johanna Pakula made her way down the steps in a gray chiffon sequined gown for Armani, while Anthony Quinn lent a supporting arm to a red cashmere clad model for Laura Giagioti. Anthony Delon, son of French actor Alain Delon, was all too happy to escort his lady down the stairs, as she flashed her legs in a preferred brown silk sequined dress by Pino Lancetti. Valentino preferred to let his lady stand alone, sending a stunning Ornella Muti in a 1965 red chiffon Valentino floor-length gown down the spectacular runway.

Hollywood favourite Gianni Versace stole the show when he sent top model Jennifer Flavin in an ultra-tight sequined jump suit slowly down the steps and into the arms of.

Lacroix still manages blood-red mink, black velvet

PARIS (R) — Flamboyant designer Christian Lacroix kicked off five days of French autumn and winter high fashion showings a shade more restrained than usual but still managed to throw blood-red mink over black velvet in a presentation inspired by the orient, New York and Spain.

At 39 the youngest of the Paris couturiers, he scored a new triumph at a showing Sunday at a Paris hotel where eager paparazzi mobbed U.S. socialite Ivana Trump, one of the few women able to afford the individually-tailored lines.

"It was high elegance," said former Chanel top model Ines de la Fressange.

"He is eccentric but marvelous. Even for a professional, his shows are an experience."

Lacroix's woman was softly moulded and often chaste but would never go unnoticed. Throwing blood-red mink over black velvet or combining fuchsia with red and tans with tweeds, Lacroix indulged in the eye-catching

contrasts that have catapulted him to the top of the thriving fashion trade.

He recklessly juxtaposed glowing velvets with pastel chiffons, heavy brocades with fine chiffon and threw his trademark diamante buttons on backs, fronts, sleeves or hips.

But the fashion circus agreed that the southern French designer, whose 1987-founded house has yet to show a profit, was a shade more restrained than in the past.

"He is still one of the great artists," one journalist said. "But not quite as wild as in the past."

Largely inspired by the Orient and 18th century Spain, Lacroix's models favoured short skirts or tightly tapered trousers but needed to show little flesh to seduce.

A heavily embroidered torero jacket twinkled and tapered to a waspish waist. A tomato red silk jacket tipped with sable cuffs dropped to

reveal a wispy black chiffon number.

Ball-gowns so rich, so wide and so ruffled they appeared set for a court were tucked high at front or slashed a mile askew.

"Whenever I was in danger of reproducing costumes from the past, I conjured up the freedom and violence of New York and shortened the hems," Lacroix said.

Some preferred the bolder, younger line of Italy's Gianni Versace, who launched the haute couture collections as a guest of the 22 French designers with a flamboyant show.

Versace sought his inspiration in the 1960s, coupling the teeniest of minis with a technicolour splurge in pop-art and psychedelic design.

Andy Warhol's Marilyn Monroe ran up and down embroidered stretch pants for very special evenings. Heels were viciously high and bottoms barely covered by a rich and hard-hitting mix of tightly-moulding fabrics.



A model wears an ornate top, embroidered with gold and jewels over a multilayered skirt designed by Christian Lacroix as part of the Autumn-Winter 1990-91 Fashion collection.

Where they found

Chromosomes male sex

LONDON (R) — British scientists believe they have found a genetic trigger that determines an embryo's sex — but say any manipulation of the discovery among people would be genocide.

Scientists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Medical Research Council said they found a gene in a tiny region of the Y Chromosome which sets off the chain of events that causes an embryo to grow testes.

This gene, they believe, is present in all mammals, from mice to humans.

"This discovery is likely to be a landmark that will be remembered for a long time in the development of science," said John Maddox, editor of the scientific journal Nature where the research was published.

Scientists said the discovery

opens a window into one of the basic processes of life, but it is a long way from having any practical applications.

The researchers who made the discovery were particularly adamant that their finding should not be used for any genetic manipulation of the human species.

"I consider any experiment to manipulate the (genetic material) of a human being akin to genocide and outside reasonable moral debate," Dr. Peter Goodfellow of the Cancer Research Fund's Human Molecular Genetics Laboratory told a news conference.

However, he said the discovery could eventually have some practical application in beef production where it is more desirable to have bulls than cows.

Scientists have been searching for the male gene, officially called the testes determining factor (TDF), since 1959, when it was first discovered that the Y Chromosome is associated with maleness.

Chromosomes contain the basic genetic material that determines the characteristics of a species. Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes of which two, the X and Y, determine sex.

At fertilisation a mammal's egg, which always carries an X chromosome, fuses with a sperm that carries either an X or Y. Normally embryos that inherit an X chromosome from the sperm become females while those that receive a Y become males.

For the first several weeks of development, all human foetuses are sexually identical but in the seventh week the TDF kicks in if it is present

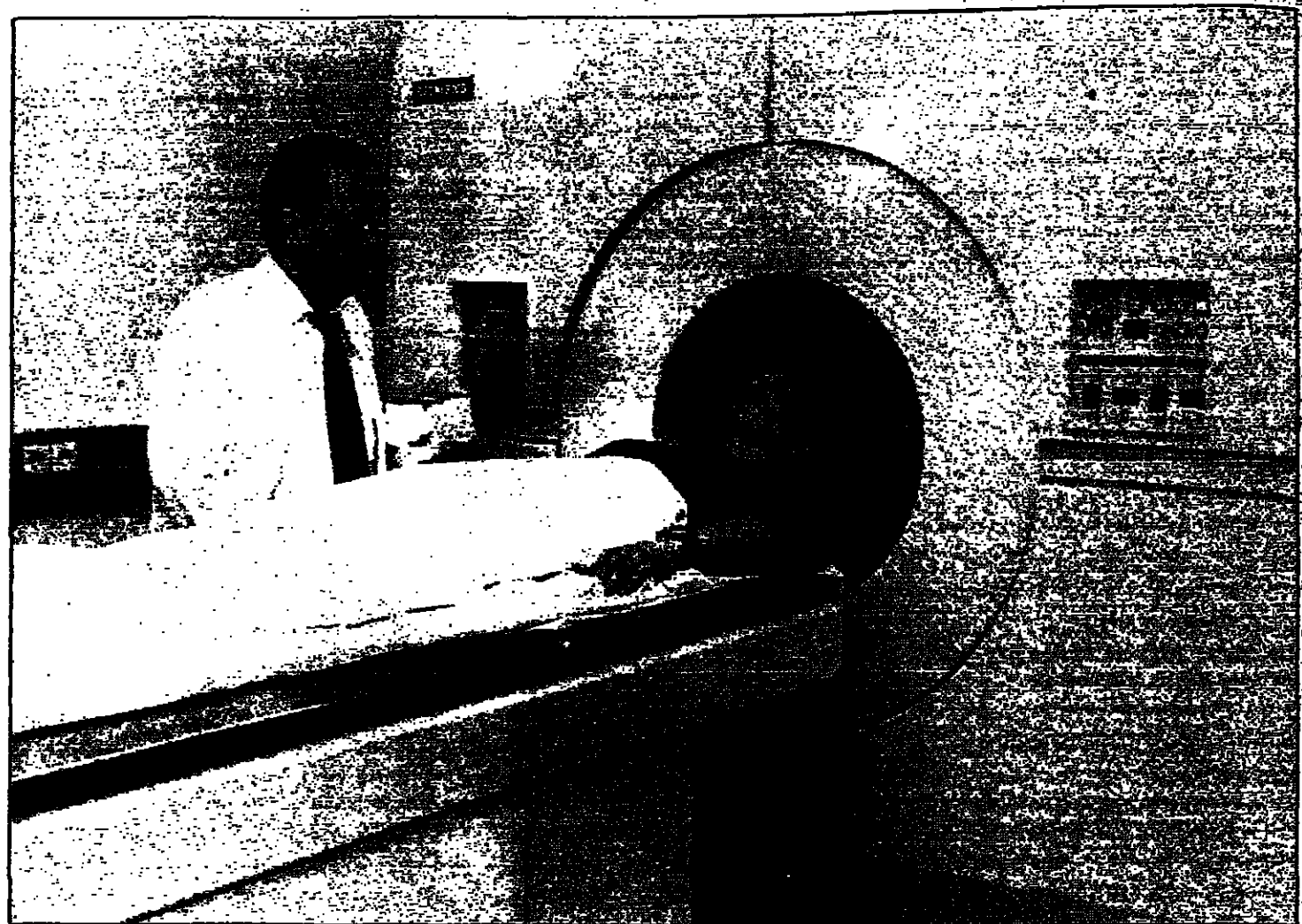
and a foetus destined to be male starts to develop testes.

In December 1987 scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology made headlines when they thought they had discovered the TDF, but further investigations ruled it out as the critical marker.

Goodfellow said he is certain that his team has found the correct gene because they were searching a much smaller area of the Y chromosome.

The team made their discovery by studying human genes, then a wide range of male and female mammals from mice to tigers, and only one fragment was found to be present in all the males and absent in all the females.

The team then was able to isolate the mouse equivalent of the fragment and pinpoint the location of the gene that triggers testes.



The Positron Emission Tomograph (PET) — the world's most modern diagnosis unit — has been put into service in Hanover. The rector of the University, Professor

Heinz Hundeshagen in front of the PET. There are similar units in the university cities of Düsseldorf and Aachen.

Mental health advocates believe

PITTSBURG (AP) — Mental health advocates are hailing a new drug for acute schizophrenia but criticising its price tag — \$750 per month per patient.

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and participants in a weeklong convention on psychiatric treatment want Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corp. to explain why the drug, called Clozapine, is so expensive. They also urged state hospitals to buy more.

"We're hearing what sound like testimonials at church revivals on the effects of the drug," said J. Benedict Centifanti, deputy director of Pennsylvania Production and Advocacy Inc., a support group for psychiatric patients.

Clozapine reduces emotional disturbances and thought

disorders in schizophrenics who haven't responded to conventional treatment, said Sandoz, which introduced it in February.

"In some cases recovery is quite dramatic," said Barbara Gordon, research director for the Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health. "In others it's not so dramatic, but even they are showing improvement."

Unlike other drugs prescribed for schizophrenia, such as Thorazine and Prolixin, Clozapine doesn't cause involuntary facial tremors known as Tardive Dyskinesia, a sometimes irreversible condition.

"When you take one of those drugs you are rolling the dice," said Dr. Janice Guidotti, who held a workshop at Duquesne University.

The workshop was part of a five-day convention attended by 1,000 current and former mental patients and their advocates, whose goals include getting rid of a perceived stigma associated with psychiatric treatment and advancing a nationwide civil rights movement for mental patients.

Sandoz pharmaceuticals of East Hanover, New Jersey, said one reason for Clozapine's high cost is that patients must undergo weekly blood tests to check for a potentially deadly side effect, reduction in the white blood cell count, that shows up in 2 per cent of users.

The company estimates 5,000 patients in public and private hospitals in the United States take Clozapine.

The price should drop when more psychiatrists prescribe it, said Dr. Gilbert Honigfeld, a Sandoz spokesman.

At a recent workshop, Centifanti described the case of James Angliss, a patient at Western State Hospital in Steilacoom, Washington, who sued for the right to take Clozapine. Administrators withheld it because of cost and potential liability.

A jury awarded Angliss \$600,000 and his mother \$60,000 after he was forced to take another drug and developed Tardive Dyskinesia. The hospital has appealed the case.

The case is believed to be the first in the United States involving Clozapine, Centifanti said.

E. German hospitals to make up lost ground

HANOVER — A diagnosis unit, which is regarded as the most modern in the world, has been taken into service by the Hanover Medical University. It facilitates precise examination of the functions of the body. The new Siemens equipment for instance, provides exact data about which

parts of the heart have "died" following an attack. It can also be used to determine whether someone can understand speech or can only react to sounds. The unit which enables illnesses to be diagnosed more effectively is known as the Positron Emission Tomograph (PET).

Hospitals in East Germany urgently require modern equipment in order to make up lost ground. Recently, the Drägerwerk AG from Lübeck donated anaesthetic systems worth more than a million West German marks to clinics in the neighbouring East German towns of Wismar and

Rostock. Christian Dräger described the donation as "Schleswig-Holstein helping Mecklenburg" when he handed over the units. Speedy, humanitarian neighbourly assistance designed to replace obsolete equipment to the benefit of patients — IN Press.

Exposes AIDS molecule that spreads in body

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers have developed a synthetic protein molecule that will attach itself tightly to the AIDS virus in a test tube and prevent it from spreading to uninfected cells.

In a study published Friday in the Journal Science, the researchers reported that the molecule, called CPF, is able to block a molecule on the surface of the AIDS virus from sticking to healthy immune cells in the blood.

"The CPF very effectively prevents the AIDS virus from binding (sticking to a target cell) and this inhibits the spread of the virus," said Steven J. Burakoff, a researcher at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, an affiliate of Harvard University.

CPF, he said, "is also very inexpensive and very simple to synthesise."

Burakoff said his group found CPF while researching the chemistry of how the AIDS virus — called human immunodeficiency Virus, or

HIV — is able to attach itself to T-Lymphocytes, blood cells, that are part of the immune system and a principal target of the AIDS virus.

When HIV attacks T cells, it attaches a GP120 surface molecule to a molecule called CD4 on the cell's outside wall. In effect, the GP120 acts as a key to open the lock on the surface of the T cell. The virus can then move inside.

A molecule that sticks to the GP120, said Burakoff, would in effect prevent the key from fitting in the lock on the T cell surface. This, he said, would keep healthy cells from becoming infected.

In laboratory experiments, Burakoff said, the Harvard group exposed the AIDS virus to CPF and found that the manmade molecule stuck so firmly to GP120 that it could not be washed off.

Burakoff said the group then exposed an AIDS virus bound with the CPF to healthy T cells. The AIDS virus, which would normally attack

the T cells ease, was unable to cause an infection.

Next, Burakoff said, AIDS-infected T cells were put in a test tube with both healthy T cells and CPF. The synthetic molecule, he said, prevented the virus from spreading from the infected T cells to the uninfected cells.

"The found it to be very, very effective," said Burakoff. "In the test tube, anyway, the CPF molecules look very interesting."

The researcher said that tests of the molecule in laboratory animals are just beginning and that there are "many hurdles to go over" before the compound could be tested in human patients.

Another AIDS researcher, Mr. Allen Goldstein of the George Washington School of Medicine in Washington, said the research was "very solid" but noted, "there's a long way to go before you could translate that into a clinical application."

Goldstein said that CPF

joins "a whole bunch of potential antivirals" that need to be tested further.

Before such a molecule is useful as a drug, he said, researchers must show it is effective in a concentration the body can tolerate and that it affects only the target virus.

"It would have a major problem in the body if it will suck to lots of other things," said Goldstein.

Burakoff said CPF is composed of two amino acids, Proline and Phenylalanine, and is a small molecule.

"Being small, there is a reasonable chance that it can be given orally," he said. "And the fact that it can be synthesised means it can easily be modified to improve it."

The CPF research was a combined effort by Burakoff's Dana-Farber Group and the Harvard University Department of Chemistry. Science magazine is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Screen Gait Analysis is the name of a technique used to map a physically handicapped person's pattern of movement so that items such as artificial legs and orthopaedic shoes can be more accurately designed for individual use. The result for the patient is less pain.

By Paul Janositz
Stuttgarter Zeitung

A PATIENT is prescribed an orthopaedic shoe to offset the effect of a left leg five centimetres shorter than the other as a result of a complicated fracture.

The specialist checks to see that the difference is offset. It all looks fine. Then the patient starts complaining about serious pain in both hip joints and at the fracture points.

At hospital the patient undergoes screen gait analysis and a serious foot irregularity is diagnosed. It imposes a heavy burden on the handicapped side of the patient's body.

The shoe is then redesigned and the patient is able to use it free of pain once more.

This case was outlined by Hannes Schmidl of Budrio, Italy, at an international symposium on screen gait analysis held at the Technical University in Berlin.

The new technique is mainly used to help handicapped patients with artificial limbs and to enable them to regain fullest use of their limbs and to play an active part in everyday life. Rehabilitation, as it is called, dates back to 1916, when the Surgeon Ferdinand Sauerbruch and the engineer Walter Schlesinger set up the Artificial Limb Test Center in Berlin.

Its task was to develop artificial limbs and other aids for the handicapped, with the

emphasis — at the time — on war wounded.

The Technical University's Professor Ulrich Boenick defines screen gait analysis as a measuring tool by which motion sequences can be quantified very fast and with the lowest possible margin of error.

Modern methods of screen gait analysis, popularly known as the "electrocardiogram of the gait," use optoelectronic techniques.

Strips of reflecting foil are attached to those of the patient's joints that are of interest while luminous diodes arranged in ring fashion round video camera lenses flash these markers.

Part of the energy emitted is reflected, received by the cameras and processed by a computer that works out, for instance, the speed and acceleration of the limbs marked in this way.

This method is known as passive marking. Active marking involves attaching infra-red luminous diodes to the patient. These diodes flash periodically.

The drawback of active marking is that the patient has to drag a heavy cable along behind him, which may naturally hamper his natural gait.

The new measuring facility at Berlin Technical University's department of bio-medical technology incorporates a particularly advanced level of sophistication and has a resolution of up to 0.5 mm.

So it can register exactly each and every change in the patient's movement patterns, such as the time sequence graph of knee bends to hip bends.

The graph, a two-dimensional diagram, describes a loop for every step taken. The shape of this loop varies and is not the same for a sick person as for a healthy individual.

The doctor's experienced eye takes in at a glance the entire movement sequence, whereas screen gait analysis analyses individual features and identifies their causes.

Measurements are recorded and can be compared with subsequent readings. But the problem is that although data are detailed, interpreting them is more difficult.

"Electrocardiograms can be read mechanically in eight out of ten cases nowadays," Professor Boenick says. "In screen gait analysis we are still not exactly sure what the details mean. We are still learning."

Hannes Schmidl, chief surgeon at a rehabilitation clinic for patients with damaged limbs, is convinced the new analysis technique is better than the doctor's "experienced eye."

He would like to store the vectors, or readings, of sick and healthy patients in a databank so as to be able to read them later like X-ray exposures.

It will be a while before this is possible. The equipment is not yet available, and only a handful of clinics can afford facilities that cost between 300,000 and 700,000 West German marks (DM).

Professor Boenick hopes to make do with simpler equip-

ment once he has mastered the technique. It might then cost DM 50,000, which is a sum most hospitals should be able to afford.

Will sophisticated techniques usher in revolutionary changes in the craftsmanship that is still the mainstay of making artificial limbs? Orthopaedic technician Wilfried Knoche feels the new technology will tend to help him in his work.

He expects screen gait analysis findings will help him to make ideal artificial limbs for his patients and improve the techniques used to teach patients to wear them and to walk correctly again.

"There are cases," he says, "in which the patient seems to walk well with the artificial limb yet is still not satisfied. So we would welcome objective data on the performance of artificial legs."

He is, however, sceptical about gait analysis findings being used to reach overhasty judgements.

The technique can be used not only for people with damaged limbs but for patients suffering from muscle wastage after being bedridden for too long in hospital.

The success of treatment and of teaching them to walk again can be objectified and recorded on floppy disks. Many nerve complaints lead to upsets in movement and even paralysis.

They include strokes, Parkinson's disease, brain tumours and other changes in the central nervous system. Berlin neurologist Karl-Heinz Mauritz told the symposium about successful treatment of patients paralysed on one side or suffering from paraplegia.

Evidence shows heart disease can be reversed without surgery

LONDON (AP) — A low-fat vegetarian diet, clean living and stress management can reverse heart disease in many patients in as little as a year, according to a study published in a weekly British medical magazine.

Dr. Dean Ornish of the Preventive Medicine Research Institute in Sausalito, California said in the latest edition of the Lancet that this is the first evidence that heart disease can be reversed without surgery or drugs.

"Our trial suggests that comprehensive lifestyle changes may begin to reverse coronary atherosclerosis in only a year," the study said.

Researchers emphasised that "adherence to this lifestyle programme needs to be very good for overall regression to occur, although moderate changes have some beneficial effects."

The "lifestyle heart

trial" noted that only two other controlled studies had shown regression of coronary atherosclerosis and both used cholesterol-lowering drugs as the main treatment.

The 10 researchers participating in the study cautioned, however, that some important questions remained unanswered.

The study involved only 41 patients, and researchers said it was important to determine whether these results can be sustained in large numbers of patients with coronary heart disease.

Further research is also needed to determine the relative contribution of each component of the lifestyle programme, the researchers said.

Scientists should also study just how the disease regresses and compare the results of changing lifestyles vs. using drugs or surgery, they said. The 41 patients from the

greater San Francisco area, aged 35-75, were randomly assigned to an experimental group and a control group, the study said.

The 22 patients in the experimental group ate a low-fat, vegetarian diet. Smoking and caffeine were banned and alcohol was limited to two drinks a day, although drinking was not encouraged.

They exercised regularly and attended stress management training classes.

Eighteen of the 22 patients showed a reversal of coronary artery blockages. Three others showed slight deterioration, while one patient with "poor adherence" to the diet became markedly worse, the study reported.

The 19 control group patients adhered to a programme generally recommended for heart disease patients. They ate a diet of 30 per cent fat, did not smoke and took

moderate exercise. Ten of the 19 patients in the control group, experienced worsening of their coronary artery blockages, while eight improved.

"This finding suggests that conventional recommendations don't go far enough for many people," Ornish said in the interview "the guidelines may be enough to prevent heart disease but not to reverse it."

"The amount of chest pain improved within a week or two and there was a 91 per cent reduction in chest pain," Ornish said. "When you feel that much better you are willing to make the changes. The healthier lifestyle becomes self-reinforcing."

By contrast, the study found that the control group patients experienced a 165 per cent rise in the frequency of chest pains.

Brazil's death squads kill and torture street children

By Todd Lewan
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Death squads hired to "clean up the slums" are torturing and killing growing numbers of street kids in Brazil, often with the help of police, human rights activists say.

Officials who monitor child abuse say hundreds of deprived and destitute minors are murdered every year in Brazil. Police torture, rape and illegally arrest street children, Amnesty International said in a report entitled, "Torture and extrajudicial execution in urban Brazil."

Death squads, generally off-duty or retired police officers fed up with impotent courts and turn-of-the-century justice, have operated in Brazil since the 1960s, when they executed known or suspected criminals and opponents of the right-wing military regime.

But observers are alarmed by a record surge of squad killings of young people across the country, especially in the cities of Recife, Sao Paulo and Rio De Janeiro.

"The violence has never been this bad. Kids are being gunned down without question, as if they were wild dogs," said Rodrigo Sousa Filho, coordinator of the national street children's movement in Rio De Janeiro State.

The brutality is a mirror of grinding poverty, family disintegration and police corruption that have worsened in the past decade as Brazil plunged into its worst economic crisis ever.

Four-digit inflation, a \$114-billion foreign debt and deep cuts in social spending have left Brazil's educational and child welfare systems "functioning as revolving doors," said Sousa Filho.

A UNICEF study released in March said half of Brazil's 60 million children live in abject

poverty. Some 12 million fend for themselves on the streets, up from an estimated 5 million in 1985.

In Brazil, children as young as 5 are put out on the street, said Pedro Menezes, spokesman for the Central Foundation for Infants and Adolescents, a child welfare agency.

Few last long in poorly equipped, low-security juvenile detention centres. Many run away or are simply released for lack of room.

To survive, street kids become beggars or petty thieves, said Menezes, "but they soon learn they can triple their parents' monthly salary by running drugs, or joining organised crime groups."

Since minors under 18 cannot be brought to trial, they become especially useful to crime bosses. Teen-agers help carry out kidnappings, bank robberies and

cocaine deals, he said.

To fight back against the rising crime, small store owners pay death squads to wipe out criminals of all ages.

Children who are petty thieves are murdered for a price as low as \$40. The killing of a youth who runs drugs or heads a slum gang can cost as much as \$300, said one police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Racial prejudice is often a determining factor in the killings.

One study by the Brazilian institute of social and economic analysis said 82 per cent of street kids murdered by death squads were black or of mixed race.

"If a street kid is white, he's seen as cute and is pitied. But a black child is immediately thought to be a thief, a drug runner or a gang leader," said Paulo Rios, a worker in the Brazilian league for the defense of human rights.

Official statistics are generally incomplete, but several studies show violence against minors is spreading across this nation of 150 million.

A recent study by the health ministry revealed that homicides of young people in Sao Paulo jumped from 280 in 1980 to 1,880 in 1989. In Rio, violent deaths of young people rose from 287 in 1983 to 630 in 1989.

The Brazilian Institute of Social and Economic Analysis, a private research centre, pulled data from newspapers and morgue files in 15 states in show death-squad killings of street children jumped from 65 in 1988 to 82 in the first half of 1989.

Other figures by the National Movement for Street Boys and Girls, which counsels abandoned children, show 333 street kids were killed by death squads in the cities of Recife, Sao Paulo and Rio last year.

Gilberto Dimenstein, an investigative reporter from Sao Paulo who interviewed some 300 street children in six major cities, estimates that at least one youth is murdered by death squads each day in Brazil.

In his best-selling book "The War of the Children," Dimenstein says that street children are eliminated because they often witness crimes by mobsters and police in violent neighbourhoods. The practice is known as "burning the files."

In his book, Dimenstein finds a youth slumped on a street corner in the northeastern city of Recife, and asks the boy if he is sick.

"No," the boy responds. "I took a bullet in my leg. The bullet is still in there."

"Why don't you go to the hospital?"

"I am afraid the police will find me," the boy says.

Police routinely torture street

kids for information on crime gangs and extort money from children in return for leaving them alone, said Dr. Maria Alda, coordinator of the National Movement for Street Boys and Girls in Sao Paulo.

Police officials deny the charges. "More minors are committing felonies than ever before," said Lt. Eide Trindade, director of Rio's task force on organised crime.

"If they are to engage in crimes such as armed robbery, they must be treated by the same standards as adults. To stop the crime, there is no other way."

In most cases involving torture or death, no one ever is arrested, said Alda. Convictions of death squad members are next to impossible as witnesses are threatened and sometimes killed.

"Everyone in these poor areas knows who's pulling the trigger,"

insisted Alda. "But no one, not even the kids, says anything out of sheer terror."

As violent crime rises and the legions of Brazil's street children grow, official and public tolerance to the problem is wearing thin.

Last year, state troopers routinely picked up children who begged around Rio's Glitz tourist beaches and dumped them in far-off slums in the city's poor north zone.

In April, Liborini Siqueira, one of only two juvenile-court judges in this city of 5.5 million people, ordered military police to round up street kids and put them in child detention centres.

Evening TV news broadcasts showed images of scantily clad, crying children huddled behind bars in cramped, filthy cells. Outcries from politicians and local human rights groups resulted and the order was later withdrawn.

Canadian to retrace Ibn Battuta's steps

By Marwan Haddad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If you happen to see an elderly, but quite energetic foreigner, cycling in the streets of Amman sometime during the first half of 1991, do not be too surprised. This 57-year-old Canadian is retracing the steps of the 14th century great Moroccan geographer, Ibn Battuta. This time, however, the traveller will be driving a bicycle, not riding a camel.

Nicholas Hancock, a retired teacher and author, presently residing in Liverpool, England, will embark on his 14,000 kilometres journey on the first of October, travelling across North Africa and the Middle East. Hancock will cycle

through France to Spain from where he will catch a ferry to Morocco. From Morocco, he will follow the route Ibn Battuta took through Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey. Hancock plans to complete his cycling extravaganza in nine months, crossing the finish line sometime during the month of June 1991.

In performing this extraordinary trip, Hancock seeks to discover the thrills of travelling that Ibn Battuta so thoroughly enjoyed. Hancock has "long been intensely interested in the exploits of the Moroccan explorer." However, Hancock, during his nine month tour, will only receive a small taste of what Ibn Battuta spent a lifetime experiencing. This

great medieval Arab traveller traversed over more than 120,000 kilometres, visiting almost every Muslim country as well as many non-Muslim countries reaching regions as far as China and Sumatra.

Ibn Battuta first discovered his passion for travel at 21 when he undertook the pilgrimage to Mecca in 1325. Ever since then, he vowed to visit as many parts of the world as possible and "never to travel any road a second time." Travel thus became his lifetime career. Ibn Battuta, educated under renowned scholars of

traditional Islamic sciences, depended not on his long list of diplomas but on the goodwill of many a sultan or ruler for his living and travelling expenses.

Hancock thus desires not only to retrace Ibn Battuta's steps but to also relive his experiences. Hancock wishes to meet, as did Ibn Battuta, scholars, historians, religious leaders, or others who are interested in his travels.

Upon his return to England, Hancock plans to publish a series of articles about his encounters. He hopes his writings will have an impact on the

British and the world at large, exposing to all the value of Ibn Battuta's work. For though Ibn Battuta cannot claim the discovery of any new land, his book the Rihlah (Travels), written at the end of his travels in 1353, is rich with observations on the social, cultural, and political history of the Muslim world. In Hancock's words, "an acquaintanceship with the feats of this remarkable traveller (who is unfortunately quite unknown in the United Kingdom) could aid in the very worthwhile task of improving Anglo-Arab relations."

Vikings—savages abroad, good family men at home

By Tony Austin
Reuters

BIRKA, Sweden — Away from home, the Vikings had a reputation as the world's first international hooligans — savage, uncouth, thirsting for a drink and a fight.

"Back in Scandinavia, they were considered good family men who respected their women and led quietly industrious lives, with a taste for imported pottery and soft feather bedding."

"The Vikings had a peaceful sub-structure in Scandinavia but were warlike abroad," said Bjorn Ambrosiani, project director of a five-year excavation which has just begun at Birka in the Malaren Valley 30 kilometres west of Stockholm.

Archaeological discoveries in the last 150 years have steadily transformed the Viking's image from that of heroic warrior to peaceful trader.

Ambrosiani's dig at Birka on the idyllic island of Bjorko, the largest Viking excavation of its kind, seems sure to strengthen the idea of a civilised Viking living in harmony with his neighbours and with nature.

The daily Dagens Nyheter, reviewing a Viking exhibition in Malmo, said the Viking was now ready to join the European Community (EC).

"This year's image is of a cultivated trader and city dweller with international contacts, rather than a rough bearded fellow looking for a drink and a fight. He is a family man compatible with the EC," it said.

But memories of blood and thunder remain. Reading the runestones scattered round the shores of the Malaren Valley, a visitor senses the terror which an approaching Viking longboat must have caused their victims.

"They travelled bravely and far, and in the east gave food to the eagles," a euphemism for slaughter, the stone outside Gripsholm Castle says.

Matas Larsson, author of a new book about Ingvar the Wayfarer's Travels, said at least 10 per cent of the Malaren Valley's inhabitants travelled abroad in search of honour and fortune, often as mercenaries.

Ironically Christian missionaries were arriving at Birka around the same time as Vikings from present-day Denmark and Norway were sacking the monastery of Lindisfarne in northeast England in 793 A.D.

A Celtic cross on the weather-smoothed granite of Birka, commemorating the first visit by the German Monk Ansgar in 829,

rises above the 2,000 burial mounds which make this the largest funeral site in Scandinavia.

Silver pendants in the form of crosses have been found in some graves, suggesting their owners were Christians. But other burial mounds contained hammers and iron neck-rings dedicated to the pagan God Thor.

The struggle between Christianity and Paganism ebbed and flowed on Birka. The islanders responded to Ansgar but soon tired of his successor Gaubert's preaching and chased him away.

Birka, the cardinal point where Swedish urban life, industry and trade began, is attracting thousands of day-trippers aboard modern ferries from Stockholm this summer.

Ambrosiani said archaeologists from Sweden, Britain, Denmark and the Soviet Union had in the first three months of digging unearthed bones, beads and other material from Birka's golden age between about 800 and 970 A.D.

"The picture that emerges is of a peaceful, commercial people, with lots of handicrafts and both local and long-distance trade," he said.

Birka was perfectly positioned on trade routes between Europe via Soderstjälpe to the south and the Viking towns of Sigtna and Uppsala to the north, and had easy access to the eastern routes via Stockholm.

In its heyday Birka was a gigantic storehouse, collecting iron, furs, elk antlers and duck down over the winter months and exchanging them for foreign luxury goods when the waterways became passable in spring.

"They had winter markets on the ice. Some of the graves contain ice skates made out of animal bones," said Neil Price, a post-graduate student of York University in England who has been working at Birka.

The Malaren Viking's forays to the east took them through the Russian river system to the Caspian Sea and Black Sea, and they brought back silk, salt, swords and slaves. "Birka declined when boats became too big to drag over land," said Ambrosiani.

Stockholm's historical museum, which is exhibiting the latest discoveries, said Birka raised fundamental questions about the Swedish view of the Vikings.

In a pamphlet it asked: "Is our confident view of history correct. Or was our position more like Africa's in the 1600's — as barbarian country on the edge of the civilised world?"

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Soviets slam U.S. in Basketball

American swimmers get more gold medals at Goodwill Games

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — The Soviet Union buried the U.S. basketball team under a storm of three-pointers in a 92-85 victory over their arch rivals at the Goodwill Games.

The Soviets, playing with just one member of the 1988 Olympic gold team that relegated the Americans to the bronze, used their patented weave offense, picking and passing to perfection, to set up sharpshooter Valeri Tikhonenko.

Tikhonenko, a 2.07 metre forward who played on the Seoul team, scored 30 points and hit five of nine from beyond the three-point line, including four long-range bombs in the second half when the Soviets overcame a 45-42 halftime deficit.

"I thought the Soviets played an outstanding game," Tikhonenko was fantastic," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "I thought our kids didn't play that badly. We just had a hard time scoring."

The defeat dropped the host team to 1-1 in the round robin. The United States and Italy met Wednesday, with the winner joining the Soviets as Group B teams in the semifinals.

Brazil surprised Olympic silver medalists Yugoslavia in Group A with a 95-85 win to clinch a berth in the semifinals with a 2-0 record. Oscar Schmidt scored 26 points and Gerson Vidalino added 18 for the winners.

Yugoslavia and Spain, both with 1-1 marks, play Wednesday with the winner clinching the other semifinal berth.

The young, but raw, U.S. team made several surges, led by the aggressive shot-blocking of centre Alonzo Mourning, but the steadier Soviets kept their poise and took a well deserved win.

Mourning led his team with 20 points, 14 rebounds and five blocked shots.

The U.S. cagers, once again, were plagued by poor outside shooting, the same malaise that led to their slump in Seoul.

The team shot just 5-13 from three-point range after an 0-10 long distance tally in their opening win over Puerto Rico.

Soviet coach Vladimir Garastus said the styles favoured his team.

"They tried to get under the rim all the time," he said of the U.S. attack. "It wasn't effective."

Meanwhile Soviet athletes shone on the track and on the court at the Goodwill Games Tuesday, while American swimmers piled up more gold medals in the swimming competition.

Soviet Nadezhda Ryashkina walked away with a record in the women's 10 kilometre walk — little more than a day after Soviet ice hockey star Sergei Fyodorov just walked away.

While the United States lost on the basketball court, they won in the water. Five-time Olympic swimming champion Matt Biondi raised his Goodwill gold medal total to four, while newcomer

Summer Sanders took her gold tally to three.

Although few fast times have been clocked in the sprints on the Husky Stadium at the Goodwill Games, those travelling over longer distances have turned in impressive efforts.

Ryashkina set a world record of 41 minutes 56.35 seconds in the 10 kilometre walk just ahead of former record holder Kerry Saxby of Australia, who also came in under her old mark.

In the women's 5,000 metres, Ryashkina's compatriot Yelena Romanova won the gold with the fastest time in the world this year, 15 minutes 2.23 seconds.

In the men's 200 metres, American Michael Johnson took the gold in the 200 metres with a time of 20.54 seconds, finishing ahead of Brazil's Robson da Silva.

Cuba's Roberto Hernandez pulled a mild surprise in the men's 400 metres, defeating Olympic bronze medalist Danny Everett by three metres as he clocked 44.79 seconds.

In swimming, Sanders, a 17-year-old Californian, conquered her third Olympic champion of the meeting with a win in the 200-metre butterfly ahead of East German Kathleen Nord, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist, who finished third.

Earlier Sanders defeated Olympic champions Janet Evans of the United States and East German Daniela Hunger.

Biondi added his fourth Goodwill gold with a 49.02 second win, the fourth fastest time ever, in the 100-metre freestyle.

Lewis-Johnson race

Meanwhile the International Amateur Athletics Federation President Primo Nebiolo said the federation would crown on a 100-metre match race between world record holder Carl Lewis and disgraced Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson as has been discussed.

"We are against a competition between two people in a special meeting," Nebiolo, whose group could take action against the sprinters if they violated IAAF wishes, told Reuters at the Goodwill Games Monday.

"If this competition can happen during a meeting where it would be a normal race between eight athletes, it could occur," Nebiolo said.

Johnson's two-year IAAF suspension for a positive drug test ends in September and there have been hot negotiations to stage a race between the two sprinters.

Some promoters have proposed a two-man showdown in a car park in Las Vegas, others have wanted the two to run on the boardwalk in Atlantic City.

The Lewis camp, and promoters in Spain and Tokyo, want the race as part of a regular meeting this autumn or next spring.

Nebiolo said Johnson, who was stripped of his Olympic gold medal and world record because of the positive test, had been tested four times under IAAF sanction and all results had been negative.

The IAAF president would not comment on last month's Canadian government inquiry report on drug use.

Lancia leads at start of Argentine rally

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Lancia drivers took the top two honours with a Toyota third fastest in a "superspecial" prime at the start of the Argentine Motor Rally late Tuesday.

Juha Kankkunen of Finland covered the three kilometres sandy course in two minutes 27 seconds on a Lancia Delta Integrale, three seconds ahead of teammate Massimo Biasion of Italy, winner of the past two world championships.

World championship leader Carlos Sainz of Spain, who is on his second rallying season, was third one second behind Biasion.

A third Lancia team member,

Didier Auriol of France, who is second in the championship standings, had the fourth best time, two minutes 32 seconds.

After the superspecial prime, 100 drivers started on the first of four legs of the 2,118 kilometres rally, including Argentine President Carlos Menem's son, Carlos Jr., who clocked the 11th best time on a Lancia.

The first leg is a 930-kilometre haul on Tarmac to Cordoba, a city northwest of Buenos Aires. The next three legs are due to be run Thursday, Friday and Saturday over three different mountain courses in the province of Cordoba.

President Menem, who took part in the Argentine rally in 1987, excused himself from waving off the race saying he was still recovering from a bout of influenza.

Sainz, who during practices complained about road conditions in Cordoba, should face stiff competition from teammate Jorge Recalde, a local hero who won the 1988 Argentine Rally, and Biasion, winner here in 1986 and 1987.

The 1989 rally was won by Mikael Ericsson in a Lancia. The Swede, who is now driving for Toyota, is not taking part this time.

Mexico wants to join S. American group

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico wants to withdraw from the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Federations (Concacaf) and join the South American Soccer Federation, the government newspaper El Nacional has said.

"Everyone knows the best soccer is played in South America and we believe that Mexico is good enough to compete in this region," Jesus Reynoso, president of the Mexican Soccer Federation, told the newspaper.

The South American Federation stages the America Cup, a biennial competition among South American countries, and the Libertadores Cup, an annual tournament among South American clubs.

Mexico and eight other Latin American nations walked out of a

Concacaf General Congress meeting in Guatemala on April 28, in which the president of 27 years, Joaquin Soria Terrazas of Mexico, was replaced by Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago.

Recently named Concacaf General Secretary Chuck Blazer, of the United States, said in New York Tuesday that Mexico cannot withdraw from the region and also pointed out that Reynoso is facing elections for the Mexican Federation presidency next week.

"We see a general cross section of the Mexican Federation as supportive of its place in Concacaf," Blazer said. "It's political posturing in his own political environment."

"It's a local political statement that's now gone beyond Mexican internal politics."

Mexico has been a dominant team in the region and regularly qualifies for FIFA competitions, such as the World Cup. Blazer said it seemed odd that a country would surrender easier qualification for a more difficult one.

Blazer also said the rift that developed between Spanish and English speaking members at the general congress has been healed.

"The relationship with almost all of countries has been solidified and renewed and we don't see any insurrection whatsoever," Blazer said.

Mexico is coming off a two-year suspension from world competition, including the recently completed World Cup, invoked by FIFA, soccer's governing body, for using an overage player in a qualifying for a youth World Cup.

Injured Canadian rider to stay out of showjumping

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — The World Equestrian Games, embroiled in a debate over animal cruelty, have suffered a blow with the withdrawal of top Canadian show jumper Ian Millar through injury.

The Swedish Equestrian Federation said Wednesday that Millar would be replaced by Jay Hayes on Zucarlos after he suffered a head injury in a fall in Calgary, Alberta.

Millar was one of the favourites in the show jumping competition which starts next week. The event will also be without top rider, Franke Sloothaak, who pulled out amid an investigation involving his West German trainer Paul Schockemoehle.

Schockemoehle is closing his world-famous stables and quitting as a trainer after charges that he hit horses' legs with wooden bars to make them jump higher. The practice is known as "rapping."

Pehr Gyllenhammar, president of the World Equestrian Games and the Swedish Equestrian Federation, said at an impromptu news conference before the games opened Tuesday that there was no room for abuse in equestrian sport.

"It is important for the sport to be seen as elegant, clean and fair," Gyllenhammar said.

Meanwhile, Christine Stueckelberger of Switzerland won the first warmup to the World Dressage Championship Tuesday, 16 months after a serious riding accident jeopardised her competitive career.

The former Olympic champion, with her stallion Gauguin de Lully, won first-place ratings from all five judges in the Intermediere II class. She gained 1,147 points.

The Soviet Union, favourites for the silver team medal behind the West Germans, had three riders in the top seven. Yuri Kovshov on Bouket came second with 1,101 points.

Stueckelberger was the only one of a half-dozen favourites for the individual title who competed Tuesday in the warmup for the World Team Championship in Grand Prix Dressage. The team championship occurs Thursday and Friday.

The individual final will be Sunday.

In the vaulting — gymnastics on horseback — Diana Tyll, 16, of the United States, won the women's individual compulsory competition. Another American was third, Lana Schumacher, 18.

Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf opened the two-week World Equestrian Games during an hour-long show.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Menotti to join Uruguayan club

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Cesar Luis Menotti, who led Argentina to victory in the 1978 World Cup, is to join top Uruguayan soccer club Penarol. Club official Amadis Errico said Menotti, Argentina's coach between 1974 and 1982, would sign a one-year contract Wednesday. "We can say Menotti is 99 per cent Penarol's coach. We have only to fix a few details," Errico said. Penarol officials hope Menotti will help to revive the local fans' interest in soccer, which has dwindled after the country's uninspired showing in the World Cup in Italy.

Cypriot club gives up bid for Milla

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot Soccer club Apoc have given up their bid to sign 38-year-old Cameroon World Cup hero Roger Milla because he asked for more than they could afford. The Cyprus News Agency (CNA) quoted Apoc President Chris Liveras Tuesday as saying Milla, who scored four goals as a substitute in Italy, was far too expensive. "This is Apoc, not the Fort Knox," CNA quoted him as telling Milla's agent. It said the club were now hoping to sign an unnamed Bulgarian player instead.

Karpov widens lead to chess tourney

BIENNE, Switzerland (AP) — Anatoly Karpov made short shift of fellow Soviet Lev Polugaevsky Tuesday, widening his lead in the International Grandmasters' Chess Tournament. Karpov, who will challenge world champion Garri Kasparov in Lyons, France, next October, secured the point in just 23 moves Tuesday night, playing white. The three other fifth round games all ended in draws, leaving the standings unchanged.

EC seeks uniform anti-doping measures

ROME (AP) — European Community (EC) health ministers have proposed adopting uniform laws to combat the use of drugs in sports. At an informal meeting in Naples last week, the 12 ministers called for the creation of an EC "code of behaviour" against doping. The proposal was announced Tuesday by the Italian government, current head of the EC. The health ministers said the EC should adopt common laws on prescription of performance-enhancing drugs, impose uniform penalties for illegal doping and institute a community-wide testing system.

U.S. forward signed by Italian club

NEW YORK (AP) — Forward Charles Shackleford will be placed on waivers by the New Jersey Nets and has signed a contract to play with Juventus of the Italian League, according to a published report. The New York Post said in Wednesday's editions that the Nets refused to raise the former North Carolina State star's salary. Shackleford's agent, Sal Difazio, was quoted as saying the forward would make more than \$1 million a year in Italy and would get an apartment, a car, disability insurance and spending money. "He wants to play and he wasn't going to get a chance to play for the Nets," Difazio was quoted as saying. "It didn't look like there would be much opportunity for him in the Nets." The Nets drafted Derrick Coleman and Roy Hinson is coming back from a knee injury.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 27, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day to put into motion the conclusions at which you arrived yesterday. Don't wait. Open up all kinds of new and advanced modes of procedure. Show that you are wide awake to advancement.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be cautious as the day starts that you make a mistake of a practical nature but later you can organize your affairs quite intelligently.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your desires need to be muted or others think you carry too pushy but then by the exercise of your charm you can gain the headway you are seeking.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Whatever you have in mind of a confidential needs to be kept just that during the morning while later you can join an interesting group who like your hobbies.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A well meaning companion who tries to apply experience to your affairs gives poor recommendation while in evening expert shows way to success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Walk gingerly into any public issue, vocational or otherwise in the morning while in the evening go out on the town with an influential personality.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You would be wise to stop and

think twice before going off on some new practical project and then routine occupation flows more than smoothly.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Doublecheck any invoices or financial statements before acting, after which contact congenial companions for some interesting amusements.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't buck early the wishes of a determined associate or you get a rebuff but instead think of ways to do things at your home so it is more exciting.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well better organizing your days work before begin and it flows smoothly, then tonight you can be off to hobnob with a good pal.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Put aside your desire for recreation early in the day and concentrate upon unique and progressive ways to add to your income and revenue.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't be drawn into a family dispute at your residence during the morning hours and instead go off on your own and do your own unusual think.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't do any woolgathering while in motion in the morning and then you will be able to see clearly an advanced course under which you can be more prosperous.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 26, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make certain that you say and do nothing to individuals who are clearly feeling out of sorts because they feel that they are being badly treated by life — or an individual.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day when you can sensibly study your budget and what is necessary in order to have a more secure structure to your business in all possible ways.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You feel you are not getting ahead in personal matters as you wish and it is a day to consider changes that bring you more of your longings.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Tackle those intimate concerns you have not been able to get around to during the busy days and decide on the most practical way to handle them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you have any problems with any friends or acquaintances make sure that you approach them from a serious and conscientious stance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you can do to improve your public image by some very practical civic or community matter and get credit affairs straightened out.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Some new ideas come into your consciousness from some new

source now but make sure they do not come wishful thinking but are practical in their nature.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make sure that your desire to serve and be helpful to others now is based upon some tangible evidence, need and not just because one likes to be a martyr.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can be at loggerheads with an associate who is just as determined as you and if both of you don't compromise, you might as well avoid meeting.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Consider well what your relationship is with those with whom you act side-by-side during the busy days, consider ways to improve accord.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are too likely to commit yourself today to some amusement which is too costly or would not bring anticipated pleasure so use care.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Matters at your residence require a considerable amount of diplomacy and self-control or some tension could arise that would be hard to dissolve.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to think over and over again before accepting any schools of thought different from your proven ones and to avoid a bumptious neighbour.

THE BETTER HALF.

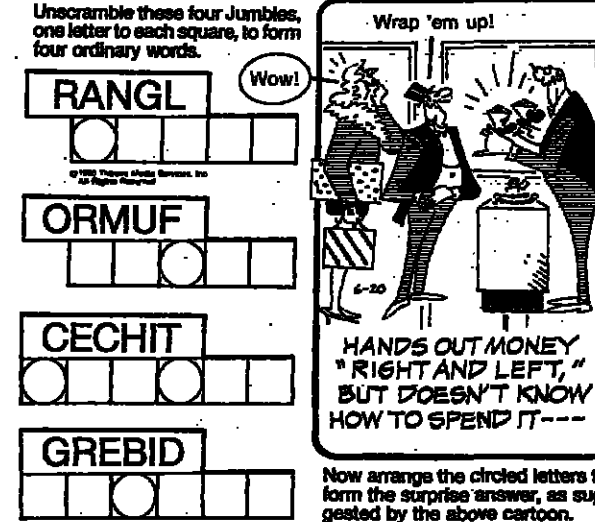
By Harris



"I'm gaining 20 pounds! It's my protest against the destruction of the tropical rain forests!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

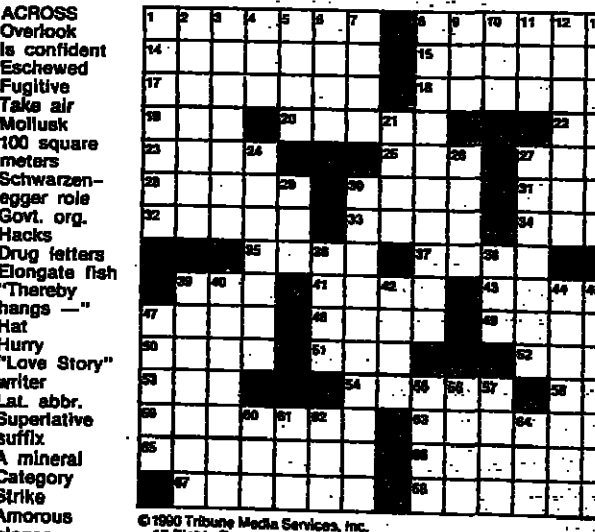


Print answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

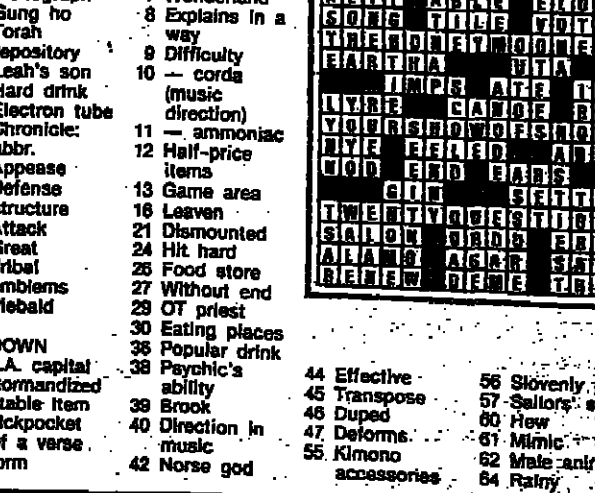
Yesterday's Jumble: STUNG THYME ANYONE INCOME
Answer: "Why not join us if you've --- NOTHING ON"

THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Canadian Embassy

Annual Notice to Canadian Citizens Residing in Jordan

Canadian citizens residing in Jordan are invited to register with the Canadian Embassy Consular Section if they have not already done so. Those who have been registered for a year or more, who have not recently confirmed their continued presence in Jordan, are also invited to contact the Consular Section and communicate any change of address or telephone number.

Consular registration forms may be obtained in person or in writing. The Embassy is located in the Shmeisani district and is open Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The postal address is P.O. Box 815403. If you wish further information you may also phone 666-124.

Ambassade Du Canada

Aviz annuel aux ressortissants canadiens en Jordanie

Les citoyens canadiens résidents en Jordanie sont invités à s'inscrire à l'Ambassade du Canada s'ils ne l'ont pas déjà fait. Ceux qui sont inscrits depuis un an ou plus, qui n'ont pas confirmé tout récemment qu'ils résident toujours en Jordanie, sont aussi invités à communiquer avec la Section consulaire pour l'informer de tout changement d'adresse ou de téléphone.

Les formulaires d'inscription sont disponible depuis l'ambassade. L'ambassade est située à Shmeisani et les heures de bureau sont de 8h00 à 16h00 du dimanche au jeudi. La boîte postale porte le N° 815403. On peut obtenir de plus amples renseignements en téléphonant au 666-124.

Kremlin announces radical new policy on foreign currency

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet government has announced radical plans to mop up foreign currency, introducing real interest rates, an effective amnesty for black market dollars and shops to spend them in.

Deputy Prime Minister Stepan Sitaryan, head of the Foreign Economic Commission, told TASS news agency that Soviet citizens held \$340 million worth of convertible currency which they had been banned from spending in the Soviet Union.

In line with a government resolution announced Tuesday a network of trade houses and private shops will open where Soviet businesses or private citizens can buy imported and high-quality

domestically produced goods. Sitaryan said Soviet citizens would also be allowed in future to open foreign currency accounts at the foreign trade bank Vnesheconombank without declaring where they got the money.

"This will enable many Soviet citizens owning foreign currency to legalise it and use it on Soviet territory," TASS quoted him as saying.

Ordinary Soviet people have been banned from holding convertible currency for decades. But growing contact with the West since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to power has greatly increased expectations, smuggling and the black market.

Sitaryan said the government would reconsider its interest rate

policy for these deposits in foreign currency accounts, as an additional incentive for depositors.

Interest, damned in communist ideology as exploitation by capitalists, has traditionally been minimal or non-existent.

Sitaryan, a key figure in Gorbachev's plans to convert to a "planned market economy," said a reason for the new policy was that Soviet enterprises had begun hoarding foreign currency reserves to keep their workers happy.

He forecast that once the new system was in place the government would earn a healthy foreign currency income from it. But he said the government was aware it could provoke protests from some sectors of society.

EC gives \$835m to boost under-developed regions

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) executive commission has earmarked 663 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$840 million) to boost industry in less-developed and declining regions of the 12-

nation group. The commission said in a statement it was putting 433 million ECUs (\$549 million) towards environment and transport projects in parts of Spain. These included cleaning up rivers in the north-

western region of Asturias and building sections of a high-speed rail link between Madrid and Seville.

Another 81 million ECUs (\$103 million) would help fund a three-year programme to improve Spain's scientific research facilities, the commission added.

The money was given under a five-year spending package worth more than \$60 billion which is intended to narrow the economic gap between the rich countries at the centre of the 12-nation Community and the poorer ones on the periphery.

The commission also set aside 131 million ECUs (\$166 million) to encourage new business in areas of France, Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium hit hard by the decline of their so-called "smoke-stack" industries.

It allocated a further 18 million ECUs (\$23 million) to restructure Denmark's ship-building industry and shipyards and steelworks in West Germany.

The European Commission has also approved grants totalling almost 960 million ECUs (\$1.22 billion) to help provide jobs and training in five EC countries.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Australia better sheep exports

SYDNEY (AP) — New shipments of live sheep are expected to leave for the Middle East in the next few weeks under stricter rules that the industry hopes will help revive the stalled trade. Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation Chairman Dick Austen said that a new live sheep shipment to Saudi Arabia was imminent and that the trade was beginning to put itself in order again after costly disruptions. "These conditions will give us a strong degree of confidence about the status of age and health in our export sheep," he told a farmers group. Australia's live-sheep trade with Saudi Arabia has been disrupted since last August after shipments were rejected because the Saudis said the animals were diseased. The trade resumed last December. But four shipments were rejected in April and May, and exporters have not been assigning ships to the route. In the latest incident, 21,000 sheep were rejected by Bahrain this month because of an unacceptably high level of the disease scabby mouth. The problems had turned into "a very, very nasty situation" which would take a while to repair, Austen said. "For the last 12 months it's been a battle to get the whole thing changed so we can be responsive to the real Saudi demands of quality and health," he said.

Saudi plant may use Malaysian rubber

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Saudi Arabia is likely to import natural rubber from Malaysia for its tire manufacturing plant scheduled to open in about two years, the Saudi minister of industry and electricity has said. Abdul Aziz Alzamil added that the best tires were made from a combination of natural and synthetic rubber. Saudi Arabia will also open a synthetic rubber production plant for the tire plant, he said.

France to lend Yemen \$21m

SANAA (R) — Yemen has signed a protocol with France for a \$21 million loan for financing communications and electricity projects. Yemen will have to repay the loan within 20 years. The loan attracts one per cent interest per annum after a 10-year grace period.

ADB lends Tunisia \$80 million

ABIDJAN (R) — The African Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 60 million SDR (\$80 million) line of credit to Tunisia to help the North African country expand its tourism industry. The Abidjan-based bank said the loan would be channelled through the National Bank for the Development of Tourism to finance projects such as the construction of additional hotel rooms.

Bulgaria expects further price raises

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's socialist government expects to raise prices by up to 80 per cent on everything except basic food next month, Finance Minister Belcho Belchev has said. "We expect an increase in prices of about 74 to 80 per cent in August," Belchev said. "By the end of the year about 40 per cent of goods in Bulgaria will be affected." Belchev said the increases were part of a plan to rescue Bulgaria's debt-ridden economy. Under hardline communist leader Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria ran up foreign debts of more than \$10 billion and subsidised non-profitable state industries. Many prices have been increased since Zhivkov was ousted last November and Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov has pledged to introduce a market economy and private enterprise. Bulgaria almost doubled the price of petrol Monday following cuts in oil shipments from the Soviet Union, causing panic buying and long queues at petrol stations.

Gap between rich, poor increases

WASHINGTON (AP) — The gap between rich and poor widened so much in the 1980s that the richest one per cent receive nearly as much of Americans' total income after taxes as the bottom 46 per cent, a liberal research group has said.

The bottom 40 per cent will receive 14.2 per cent of total after-tax income received by all groups in 1990, while the top one per cent will receive 12.6 per cent, the Centre on Budget and Policy Priorities said.

"This marks a sharp change from 1980, when the top one per cent received half as much after-tax income as the bottom 40 per cent, according to the report, which was based on an analysis of the Congressional Budget Office data on income and taxes.

The share of income going to those Americans in the middle of the income scale is lower than at any time since the end of World War II, the centre said.

The report also said the richest 2.5 million people have nearly as much total income as the 100 million Americans with the lowest incomes.

Robert Greenstein, executive director of the centre, said the changes were due in part to increased income from capital gains received by the wealthy. The findings, he said, were an argument against President George Bush's call for a cut in the tax on capital gains.

Iran will seek \$17.5b credits

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — The head of Iran's central bank said Tehran will seek \$17.5 billion in foreign loans to build a production project, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Wednesday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mohammed Hussein Adeli as saying "the country's budget has provisioned utilising foreign resources and we plan to secure it from sources, institutions or countries which could be to our interest."

Speaking at a banking seminar in Tehran, Adeli did not specify where Iran would seek loans or what project would be built.

"Iran has come to the conclusion to use some \$17.5 billion from foreign sources on the condition that it is solely spent on execution of a certain production project," IRNA quoted Adeli as saying.

In the past, Iranian leaders have shunned foreign borrowing on the grounds that it is anti-constitutional.

But the pragmatic government of President Hashemi Rafsanjani has been engaged in gradually modifying many of the country's economic policies to speed up post-war reconstruction, boost sluggish production and get the

ailing economy back on its feet. However, Rafsanjani's hard-line opposition, led by former interior minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, is opposed to the government's economic and foreign policies.

From his seat in the parliament, won after he was sacked by Rafsanjani last year, Mohtashemi has vehemently argued against foreign borrowing on the grounds it will plunge Iran into an endless cycle of debt.

Rafsanjani's five-year economic plan, launched last year, already calls for \$27 billion in foreign investment. But his government has previously said it would not seek straight loans.

Adeli's comments were the first indication that Tehran may have modified its earlier decision.

Iran's excellent credit situation should make it relatively easy to raise foreign loans, experts say. Meanwhile, a Japanese foreign ministry official said in Tokyo Wednesday that Iran has asked Japan for loans to build a dam under Tokyo's official development aid programme.

Tehran said it would need the loans to cover about half the estimated \$3 billion cost of the hydroelectric plant on the Karun river in southern Iran, the official said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, July 25, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	121.5	122.2
U.S. dollar	662.0	666.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	444.0	446.7
Pound Sterling	1195.2	1202.4	Dutch guilder	361.5	363.7
Deutschmark	407.4	409.8	Swedish crown	112.0	112.7
Swiss franc	479.0	481.9	Italian lira (for 100)	55.7	56.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	198.6	199.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8080/90	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1560/70	Canadian dollar	
	1.6240/45	Deutschmarks	
	1.8300/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.3835/45	Swiss francs	
	33.41/46	Belgian francs	
	5.4440/90	French francs	
	1189/1190	Italian lire	
	149.15/25	Japanese yen	
	5.9100/50	Swedish crowns	
	6.2625/75	Norwegian crowns	
	6.1800/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	367.30/70	U.S. dollars	

RUSSIAN PIANO FOR SALE

A Russian piano (Zeria 2). New and in a good condition for sale.

Interested contact: Tel: 848601.

SECRETARY/ASST. TO MANAGER

A local company is seeking a secretary/asst. to manager (working hours 3.30-6.30 p.m.). Requirements: Mother tongue English, full secretarial abilities, & excellent written communication. Word processing skills essential.

Please fax your C.V. to Fax No. 690882.

Furnished or Unfurnished Flats For Rent

The flats are in a modern building consisting of three apartments. The first is three bedrooms, two bathrooms, spacious salons and kitchen. The second has two bedrooms, salon, bathroom and kitchen. The third consists of one bedroom, bathroom, salon and kitchen.

All the flats have central heating and can be rented out with or without furniture. Rent to be paid annually.

Location: Shmeisani — opposite the King Abdullah Gardens. Call tel: 668904, Amman

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

STEALING HOME

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Dureld Lahham / Madeline Tabar in **KAFROUN**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

THE JORDAN CHAPLAINCY
Summer Club for Children
Aged 5-11
July 30th - August 2nd
From 9 am - 12.30
For more information tel: 628543

FOR SALE

Construction company GP Planum of 22. Oktobra 15, 11080 Zemum, Yugoslavia, announces sale of secondhand plant & equipment and invites all interested parties to submit their offers in accordance with terms and conditions specified therein:

List of equipment is available upon request, please call:

Amin Kavar & Sons Co.
Phone: 603703
Mr. Suhail Haddad

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN AMMAN

Invites all those who are interested to an

evening of Indian folklore music and dance

on FRIDAY the 27th JULY at 8:30 p.m.

At the Cultural Palace (Sports City), Amman

N.B.:Collect your FREE entry pass from the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman on Thursday (26th) & Friday (27th) July, 1990.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

THEY LIVE

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

FURNISHED SEMI VILLA FOR RENT

Consists of two large bedroom and one small salon, dining room, two bathrooms, kitchen, backyard. The apartment has a front garden, separate entrance, telephone and central heating.

Location: Shmeisani, near the Yugoslav Embassy.

For more information please call 661658.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A Marketing Officer/Account Director Required for a leading advertising agency

Candidate should:

1. Hold a BBA or MBA in Marketing preferably from a U.S. or U.K. University.
2. Have an excellent command of written and spoken English.
3. Be a Jordanian citizen.

Please send C.V. and recent photo to P.O. Box 5503, Amman. Applications will be dealt with in strict confidentiality.

ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

Bankers are invited to apply for the post of Assistant Department Director at a reputable bank.

The successful candidate will be required to participate in the management of the Department operation, follow up on loans performance and status. Problem solving abilities would be an advantage.

The candidate should be a qualified banker with several years of experience. The candidate should also possess public relations skills and have knowledge of the banking environment in Jordan.

Compensation will be competitive and based on experience and potential.

Interested candidates to submit CVs to:
P.O. Box 830703
Amman, Jordan

Latest date to receive applications shall not be later than 2nd August 1990. Notifications for interview will follow.

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

Adel Imam, Yusra in **The Devil's Island**

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

BRITISH CITIZENS: RIGHT TO VOTE

The Representation of the People Act of 1989 has made important changes in who can vote in U.K. Parliamentary and European Parliamentary Elections.

1. Even if you left the U.K. as long ago as October 1970 you can still vote.
2. People who left the U.K. before they were old enough to be included on the Electoral Register may register as overseas electors.
3. You need no longer declare an intention to return to the U.K.

In order to qualify you need to fill in an application form by *10 October 1990.

To get a form and explanatory leaflet contact the Consular Section, British Embassy, P.O. Box 87, Amman.

* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Location: Jabal Amman, 7th Circle.

Consists of: two bedrooms, sitting room and dining room. Central heating and telephone

Annual rent: JD 2,500

Tel. no. 812032

For Sale

A 1984 Qatari-licensed BMW 735i Manual TRNS, excellent conditions, full options (27) dark green colour. Price negotiable, for review or more information, Call 671007, between 7 a.m. — 12-noon.

INFORMATION SPECIALIST

Applicants are invited to apply for the post of Banking Information Specialist.

The responsibilities of the incumbent will include monitoring the performance of financial institutions using computerized data information system to report progress and analyze results and maintaining accounts.

The successful candidate will possess a degree in Business Administration and/or Management of Information Systems. The candidate should have competence in operating and modifying computerized data systems and possess public relations skills. Knowledge of the business environment in Jordan would be an advantage.

Interested candidates to submit CVs to:
P.O. Box 830703
Amman, Jordan

Latest date to receive applications shall not be later than 2nd August 1990. Notifications for interview will follow.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Adel Imam, Yusra in **The Devil's Island**

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.

Lull in Liberia fighting after rebels bombard Doe's mansion

ABIDJAN (R) — Rebels attacking the Liberian capital Monrovia have pulled back from the city centre after bombarding President Samuel Doe's mansion from the sea, diplomats reported Wednesday.

They said it was unclear whether the rebel forces were regrouping for a further assault or whether their foray into the centre of the capital had been a tactical hit-and-run raid.

"It was astonishingly quiet all day yesterday, but it's all speculation what's happening," one Western diplomat in neighbouring Ivory Coast said.

As the rebels close in, Doe is clinging to power in his heavily-fortified sea-front mansion with a few hundred of his best troops and big ammunition stockpiles. The rebels shot their way into the heart of Monrovia Monday, but diplomats said there was a lull Tuesday after a rebel gunboat staged a pre-dawn bombardment of Doe's residence. The boat

withdrew under government forces' cannon fire.

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday night that light shooting had been heard throughout the day in Monrovia, but rebels were no longer visible in the city centre.

They were believed to have withdrawn to the industrial and port area northwest of the city centre, which fell to rebel forces at the weekend.

Some diplomats in close touch with the rebels in Monrovia said the rebels may be reluctant to launch a full-scale assault on Doe's heavily-defended mansion. "The rebels are probably afraid to attack the presidential mansion because of the firepower concentrated there," one said.

Instead, they were thought to be using guerrilla tactics to keep up psychological pressure on the besieged president and his troops. Other diplomats said the rebels may have withdrawn to regroup for a further onslaught.

Many diplomats say infighting between the rival rebel factions could also be hampering their advance.

They said the rebel fighters who fought their way into the city centre belonged to a small break-away group led by ex-army Captain Prince Johnson.

Johnson is at odds with the mainstream rebel movement, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, led by former Doe associate Charles Taylor.

Journalists in Monrovia say morale in Doe's undisciplined army is already at rock-bottom. Nervous soldiers belonging to Doe's minority Krahn tribe have been looting shops and homes and summarily executing civilians belonging to the Gio and Mano tribes which solidly support the

rebel cause.

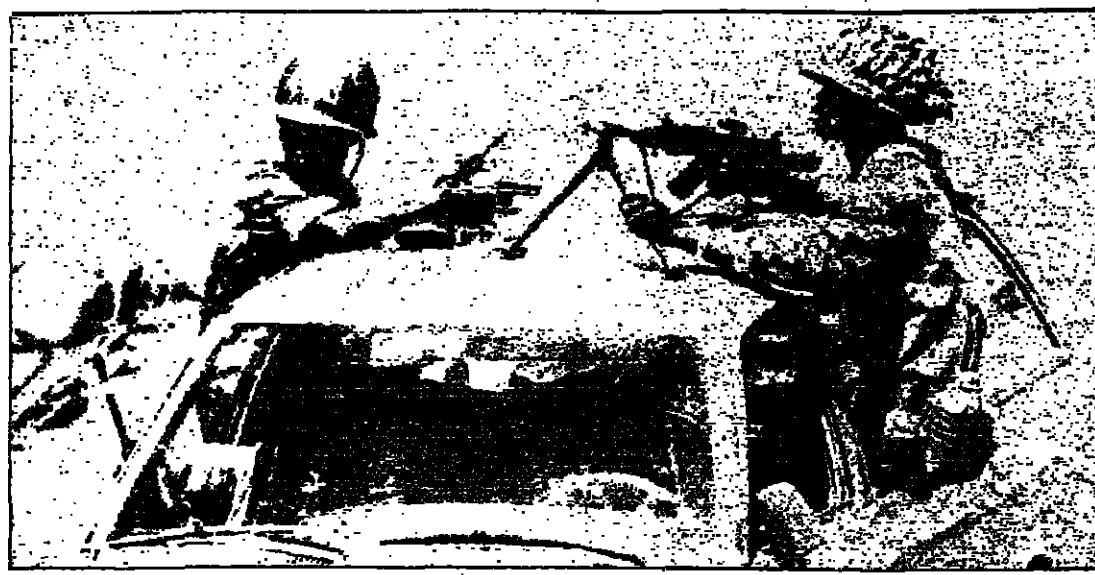
The State Department said a U.S. offer to help Doe quit Liberia was still open, but with the deteriorating security situation in Monrovia it could be hard to carry out.

Doe has vowed to fight to the end, but diplomats say he is a virtual hostage of his own men, who might use him to ensure a safe passage out of Monrovia.

Liberia has had a special relationship with Washington since freed American slaves founded the West African country in 1847. A U.S. naval task force is standing offshore to evacuate foreigners if necessary.

In Lagos, newspapers said two Nigerian warships were heading for Monrovia to evacuate an estimated 5,000 Nigerians stranded in the besieged capital.

They quoted naval commander Rear Admiral Babatunde Elegbade as saying the ships, which would also evacuate non-Nigerians, should reach Liberia in 24 hours.



Trigger happy government soldiers drive through the streets of Monrovia in a stolen car.

Sri Lankan troops capture 2 towns, establish link to rebel stronghold

COLOMBO (AP) — Government troops captured two towns outside the Jaffna peninsula and opened a major road into the Tamil rebel stronghold, military officials said Wednesday.

At least 96 rebels and 13 soldiers were killed in the three-day operation that led to the control of Paranthan and Kilinochchi by dusk Tuesday, said the officials. Forty-seven militants were killed Tuesday in Kilinochchi, they said.

Kilinochchi, 5 kilometres south of Paranthan, is linked by national highway to the town of Jaffna, headquarters of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Government paratroopers took Paranthan Monday after fierce fighting. The troops then moved to Kilinochchi, establishing control of the highway, said the officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The government troops also control the highway north of Paranthan up to the town of Elephant Pass, located just inside the peninsula.

"Having secured Paranthan, troops established a link between Kilinochchi, Paranthan and Elephant Pass," said a senior military official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Elephant Pass is 50 kilometres southeast of Jaffna and 300

metres north of Colombo. The town is at the northern end of the Elephant Pass causeway across the Jaffna lagoon, which links the mainland with the peninsula.

The rebels blew up the causeway last week in an effort to intensify their stranglehold on the peninsula, but military officials said it was repaired over the weekend.

The causeway is the only viable route for large-scale crossing onto the peninsula, which hangs like a scorpion's tail from the northern end of the island.

Elephant Pass has been under the tenuous control of the troops since fighting started June 11.

U.S. to repatriate 6 sets of MIA remains collected by Cambodians

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — U.S. military experts announced Wednesday they will repatriate six sets of human remains collected by Cambodians that are believed to be of American missing from the Vietnam War.

The remains are to be flown to Hawaii Thursday in the first repatriation of suspected MIA remains from Cambodia, said the mission, led by U.S. Army Col. Joseph Harvey.

Four sets of remains were from outlying provinces and two were from Choeng Ek, about 15 kilometres southwest of Phnom Penh.

The Communist Khmer Rouge are thought to have killed at least 20,000 people at Choeng Ek during four years of rule that began when the United States withdrew from Indochina in 1975.

It was unclear whether the remains found in Choeng Ek dated from before the Khmer Rouge government.

"We came and did our work and the cooperation was everything we asked for," Harvey told reporters after meeting with Cambodia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Dith Mundy.

Eighty-two Americans were missing in action in Cambodia during the Indochinese war. The

U.S. specialists examined 28 sets of remains thought to be those of Americans that had been collected by the government in recent years.

Harvey said the six sets of remains that are to be repatriated warranted further investigation to reach a positive identification.

A 14-member U.S. repatriation team is scheduled to arrive on Phnom Penh early Thursday on an Air Force C-141 to transport the remains to the Joint Casualty and Resolution Centre and the Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii, agencies that account for America's wartime missing.

2 arrested after IRA bomb kills nun and 3 policemen

BELFAST (R) — Police said Wednesday they had arrested two men for questioning about a huge IRA bomb which killed a Catholic nun and three policemen when it blew their cars off a road in Northern Ireland.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, acknowledged it planted the bomb under the road near Armagh Tuesday.

Police said they arrested the two men at their homes, not far from the scene of the blast which killed 37-year-old Sister Catherine Dunne and three police officers when a landmine containing 450 kilograms of explosive was set off.

The guerrillas took a family hostage in a nearby bungalow from which they detonated the bomb using a wire as the unmarked police car approached.

The police car was blown off the road, over some hedges and into a nearby field, killing the officers instantly.

Dunne and a companion, social worker Cathy McCann, were in a car passing in the opposite direction when the landmine exploded.

The nun died in hospital. McCann, 25, is being treated for a broken shoulder and cuts to her head.

McCann is a daughter of one of the first people killed in the Northern Ireland conflict which flared 20 years ago. Nearly 300 police officers and reservists have been killed and more than 6,000 injured in the sectarian and political violence.

Dunne's killing has provoked outrage among politicians and church leaders.

Irish Anglican Primate Robin Eames, who was a friend of one of the policemen, said he was disgusted that members of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, refused to stand for a minute's silence in respect for all four dead at a service Tuesday night.

But Sinn Fein councillors stood in respect for Dunne, describing her as the only innocent victim.

Neither the IRA nor Sinn Fein have apologised for Dunne's death although the guerrilla group has in the past expressed regret over bungled attacks such as the killing two months ago of two Australian lawyers in the Netherlands.

Premier to form all-Yugoslav party

BELGRADE (R) — Prime Minister Ante Markovic has vowed to form an all-Yugoslav party to stand for election in his deeply divided country.

In an interview with Macedonian Television, primed in Belgrade newspapers Wednesday, Markovic said his government had held talks with leaders of all of Yugoslavia's unruly republics and they had assured him they wished to stay within the federation.

"Everywhere, in whatever part of the country we held talks, we were told that every republic wanted to remain within Yugoslavia," he said.

Markovic said federal elections, a date for which has not been set, could be held by the end of the year. He said his government had already begun preparations.

"This government has worked day and night... on a programme which is now accepted by all the republics and provinces and especially by citizens," Markovic said.

Multi-ethnic Yugoslavia is deeply divided by nationalist and ideological disputes which have accelerated in recent months and threatened its fragile unity.

Slovenia, the most Westernised republic, declared full state sovereignty this month while the biggest republic, Serbia, has im-

posed a virtual state of emergency in its predominantly ethnic Albanian southern province of Kosovo.

Slovenia and Croatia want Yugoslavia to become a loose confederation and have threatened to secede if they do not reach agreement with the other republics.

Serbia wants to increase centralised control and has been reluctant to introduce democratic reforms.

Markovic is the only Yugoslav politician who enjoys a measure of popular support throughout the country because of bold market economic reforms.

U.K. royal family put on fixed income to year 2000

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain's royal family has been put on a fixed income until the year 2,000 and the government says it will give Queen Elizabeth and her close relatives pay rise averaging 7.5 per cent a year.

The queen, already the world's richest woman, will receive a £7.9 million (\$14.41 million) a year when the new system starts next Jan. 1.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told parliament Tuesday the fixed salary would replace the annual upratings in the spring budget.

Buckingham Palace said the queen had appointed a leading accountant to help run her household more like a business.

Michael Peat will be the royal household's director of finance and property services, overseeing the management of Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St. James's Palace and Kensington Palace.

This year, the queen received £5.09 million (\$9.28 million) from the civil list, which pays the working expenses and staff salaries of the monarchy.

The average paid to other members of the royal family has been calculated on the same basis. From next year, the Queen Mother will get £640,000 (\$1.7 million) Prince Philip £360,000 (\$656,000), The Duke of York £250,000 (\$450,000), Prince Edward £100,000 (\$182,000), the Princess Royal £230,000 (\$420,000), Princess Margaret £220,000 (\$400,000) and Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester £90,000 (\$164,000). The Prince of Wales, heir to the throne, does not figure on the list because he draws his income from his personal estate, the Duchy of Cornwall.

Thatcher said in announcing the move that the royal family "are a focus of patriotism, loyalty, affection and esteem. It is a rare combination and we should value it."

In a separate development, lawyers for Queen Elizabeth have won a court injunction forcing the French magazine Paris Match to remove an eyebrow-raising article about the royal household from all copies sold in Britain.

The 8,000 copies of the weekly photo, news and gossip magazine that appeared on British newsstands Tuesday had a sticker in place of the eight-page article. It said: "For legal reasons pages have been removed."

Rains force Manila to suspend relief flights

MANILA (AP) — Torrential rains Wednesday forced officials to suspend relief flights to Baguio, where thousands of people were left homeless by last week's earthquake.

Also Wednesday, the government announced it would seek debt relief from foreign creditors because of the devastating quake.

The rains, which flooded streets and snarled traffic in Manila, also prompted President Corason Aquino to cancel a planned visit to quake-ravaged Nueva Vizcaya province.

Storms raised fears of flooding throughout Luzon.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, chairman of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said nearly 90,000 people were left homeless.

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives approved a resolution urging Aquino to suspend payments on the nation's \$26-billion foreign debt for two-and-one-half years to free funds for reconstruction.

The official preliminary estimate of the quake damage is 15.97 billion pesos (\$694 million), but the total is expected to increase as reports from isolated areas reach Manila.

The debt measure, which was sent to the Senate, is non-binding. But House members threatened to enact a compulsory moratorium if Aquino rejected the proposal.

On Monday, Aquino had warned in his state of the union address against any measures that would jeopardise the country's credit standing.

Bishop of Bath and Wells to replace Runcie in January

LONDON (R) — Bishop George Leonard Carey of Bath and Wells was named Wednesday to succeed Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury, spiritual head of the Church of England and 70 million Anglicans around the world.

Carey, 54, whose diocese is in southwest England, is expected to be enthroned early next year as the 103rd successor to St. Augustine.

Runcie is to leave office on Jan. 31, nine months before the mandatory retirement age of 70.

Carey, who is married with two sons and two daughters, has been bishop of Bath and Wells since 1987.

The Church of England is the

country's established state church, headed by Queen Elizabeth.

The archbishop is appointed by the queen on the recommendation of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who chooses from two names proposed by a specially constituted 16-member church commission.

An aide to Thatcher said she had seen Carey Monday and informed him of his selection. The second name put forward was not disclosed.

There has been strong interest in church circles about who would succeed Runcie since he announced his retirement in March.

Kaunda frees political prisoners

LUSAKA (R) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said Wednesday he would release all political prisoners and lift a curfew imposed on Lusaka province after riots last month.

He also announced the postponement until August 1991 of a referendum scheduled for next October on a possible return to multi-party rule in Zambia.

The delay would allow for fresh registration of voters, a demand made by campaigners against

one-party rule. "We must start afresh and hence the need for forgiveness, the need to come together again," Kaunda told a news conference.

In a radical concession to his political opponents, the Zambian president, who cracked down hard last month on food rioters and survived an abortive coup attempt, said he would free former High Court Judge Edward Shamwana, jailed for life for plotting to overthrow him in 1980.

Former Army Commander Christone Tembo and three other army officers on trial with him for plotting to overthrow the government in 1988 would also be freed.

So would Lieutenant Mwamba Luchembe, who announced a military takeover of the country on June 26, and all those detained with him. Thirty-four students detained last month would also be released.

Gunmen kill Colombian prosecutor

BOGOTA (R) — Gunmen shot and killed a Colombian state prosecutor who was investigating a massacre of civilians in a turbulent banana-growing region.

An unknown number of gunmen killed Maria Ester Restrepo, 46, and her police bodyguard as she entered her office in the town of Apartado, centre of Colombia's banana industry, some 400 kilometres northwest of Bogota, a police spokesman said.

He said police were investigating the murder and the motive was unknown.

Colombian RCN radio said Restrepo, a regional prosecutor, was investigating the massacre last January of 42 peasants in the area of Pueblo Bello, close to Apartado.

Gunmen forced the peasants into a truck last Jan. 14 and drove

them some distance before murdering them. Authorities believe the peasants, whose bodies were later found in mass graves, were killed by a private army controlled by Colombian drug traffickers.

The Uraba banana-growing region is one of Colombia's most conflict-ridden. Leftist guerrillas and rightist death squads are active in the region and it is known for its poor relations between trade unions and employers in the banana industry.

Meanwhile, the United States and Colombia, forging closer ties in the war on drugs, agreed Tuesday to share some assets confiscated from traffickers in the United States.

Under an agreement signed here by Colombian Justice Minis-

ter Roberto Salazar and U.S. Ambassador in Bogota Thomas MacNamara, Washington pledged to hand over to Colombia all or part of the proceeds from drug-traffickers' assets seized in the United States as a result of information provided by Colombian authorities.

Both men welcomed the accord — the first of its kind the United States has signed — as an important step towards greater international cooperation in the anti-drug fight.

Salazar said the funds would help compensate for "the enormous efforts Colombia is making in terms of economic resources and human lives in the fight against drugs."

He also underlined the importance of the accord in countering laundering of drug proceeds.

COLUMN

\$10m bail set for Brando's son

LOS ANGELES (R) — A judge has set bail at \$10 million for actor Marlon Brando's son Christian, who is accused of murdering his half-sister's boyfriend. Marlon Brando sat emotionless as Los Angeles criminal court Judge Larry Fidler announced the sum, believed to be the highest in California history. Court sources said Brando would be able to raise the money and Christian was expected to be freed. "He'll be home in time for supper," said one source, who asked not to be named, said. Christian was also ordered to surrender his passport. Defence Attorney Robert Shapiro said Brando would put up his \$5 million Hollywood mansion as collateral for half the bail. The mansion where Marlon Brando has lived for 33 years was the scene of the fatal May 16 shooting. Fidler said at the end of the preliminary two-day hearing that there was enough evidence against Christian Brando to justify his trial for murder. No date was set for the trial.

Van Gogh suffered inner-ear infection, not madness

CHICAGO (AP) — Vincent Van Gogh, who cut off part of his left ear and later committed suicide, suffered from an inner ear infection, not from epilepsy and madness, according to a medical researcher. Pain or intense noise from the infection may have driven him to mutilate himself, said Dr. I. Kaufman Arenberg, lead author of a report published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association. Arenberg believes Van Gogh, who committed suicide 100 years ago this Sunday, suffered from Meniere's Disease. The disease is an often-misdiagnosed infection that now afflicts about 7 million Americans in one or both inner ears, Arenberg said in a telephone interview.

Marilyn Quayle 'is doing well'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The wife of Vice President Dan Quayle is doing well at Bethesda Naval Hospital after weekend surgery and is expected to return home later this week, a spokesman said Monday. David Beckwith, the vice president's chief spokesman, said the family did not want to disclose the type of operation or the disease. Sources have told the Associated Press that Marilyn Quayle had cervical cancer. "She's doing well at Bethesda Naval Hospital. We expect her home sometime this week," Beckwith said. President George Bush called Mrs. Quayle over the weekend "to wish her a speedy recovery," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater. Family sources who asked not to be identified said the operation was for cervical cancer detected in a Pap smear earlier this year. Beckwith said Saturday only that "her and total recovery is expected," with Mrs. Quayle resuming a full schedule in four to six weeks.

Actress Kelly Lebrock has a boy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a boy for actress Kelly Lebrock and her actor-husband Steven Seagal. Dominic San Rocco Seagal weighed 7 pounds (3 kilograms) when he was born last Thursday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said Paul Bloch, publicist for the couple. "Mother and child are in excellent health," Bloch said Monday. The couple and their newborn have returned to their home near Santa Barbara, he said. The Seagals also have a 3-year-old daughter, Annalizi. Miss Lebrock may be best known for her role in the movie Woman in Red. Seagal won acclaim for his role in the film Above the Law.

Norwegian soldier swims for 50 hours

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A Norwegian soldier swam for 50 hours in an Arctic fjord this past weekend in a bet with a buddy who rode a bicycle for 78 hours straight, a report said Monday. Per Christian Solberg, a 24-year-old marine, swam 60 kilometres in north Norway's Ramsand Fjord, completing the non-stop marathon Sunday evening. Oslo's Verdens Gang newspaper reported. He wore a wetsuit and scuba diving flippers. The other soldier, who was not named in the report, had fulfilled their gentlemen's bet by bicycling more than 1,000 kilometres from Ramsand to Oslo in 78 hours.

Hong Kong immigration department besieged as deadline nears

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of people mobbed Hong Kong's immigration department Wednesday, the last day to apply to move to Britain and escape Communist rule when the British colony reverts to China in 1997.

Labourers, doctors, clerks, housewives and teachers squeezed into a line that snaked more than a kilometre over pedestrian walkways and along two main avenues in downtown Hong Kong. At least 50 people had spent the night, and several children fainted because of hot, humid weather.

Immigration officials said that by 5 p.m. (0900 GMT), 4,857 heads of households had applied for the special nationality plan and that at least 30,000 people, including children and other de-

pendents, had waited in line. Before Wednesday, an estimated 26,000 had submitted applications.

"If we don't apply, we'll lose out and become poor like all Communists," said John Lam, a 41-year-old office manager in a trading house, who had been waiting for six hours.

"I'm doing this for my son," he said, pointing to a baby sleeping peacefully in a pink stroller.

Under the nationality plan, the British government is allowing 50,000 Hong Kong households — an estimated 225,000 people — the right to live in Britain in an attempt to stop Hong Kong's best and brightest from leaving the territory. The plan is scheduled to be signed into law at Buckingham Palace Wednesday.

According to Hong Kong im-

migration officials, about 3.5 million of Hong Kong's 5.7 million people are eligible for consideration under the package.

But most of those eligible don't have to apply formally because they can easily prove they are British subjects, either by possessing a British-Hong Kong passport or a Hong Kong birth certificate.

As such, thousands of people needlessly lined up Wednesday and the immigration department issued pleas to people with British-Hong Kong passports or birth certificates to go home.

The confusion was another example that people in this British colony are becoming increasingly desperate about their future.

Already more than 1,000 people a week are emigrating, mainly to Australia and Canada, because

they fear a loss of rights and opportunities when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

Mothers waiting in line Wednesday carried children strapped to their chests. Old ladies leaned on walkers, and businessmen spoke into portable phones as they awaited their turn.

C.B. Chan, assistant director of immigration, said 120 immigration officers were added to process the heavy flow of applications Wednesday. The department would stay open until midnight (1600 GMT) to accommodate the crowd, he said.

As part of a 1984 agreement, China promised to maintain Hong Kong's free-wheeling economic and social system under a programme it calls "one country, two systems." But after the June 1989 crackdown on the pro-

democracy movement in Peking, many in the territory lost faith in China's promise.

Hong Kong residents also question Britain's assurances of its support up until 1997, when Britain's 99-year lease runs out.

In a sign interpreted by many as kowtowing to China, the colonial government is prosecuting five pro-democracy activists for breaking an obscure law banning the use of bullboms. A verdict is expected Friday.

The government also has censored a film critical of Peking and banned the Goddess of Democracy Radio ship from visiting the territory this year. The ship's organisers have since given up their attempt to broadcast into China.

A recent letter sent by a top official, William Ehrman, to

Chinese authorities reaffirmed Britain's policy of forbidding Hong Kong from becoming a base for "subversive activities," local media have reported.

A sudden job switch by Britain's foreign minister with special responsibility for Hong Kong, Francis Maude, also has reduced confidence in the British.

Maude, whose trip to Peking Tuesday made him the highest-ranking European official to visit China since last summer's crackdown, has been appointed financial secretary to the treasury.

"This is a crucial stage of negotiations," said Martin Lee, a member of the Hong Kong's Legislative Council and a leading political activist. "I hope the person replacing him will... take Hong Kong matters to heart."